Barangay polls on July 15 a non-working holiday

STORY ON PAGE A4

Anti-kidnap drive scores: 5 arrested

By TJ Burgonio and Dona Pazzibugan

A DAY after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared an all-out war on kidnap-for-ransom syndicates, police announced the arrest of five suspected kidnappers, including a fireman, in Oriental Mindoro.

The suspects—Fire Officer 1

ANTI-KIDNAP/ A17

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- **Iverson arrest looms** SPORTS / A18
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e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, July 11, 2002 ★ 42 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 213 P15 website: www.inq7.net

GMA to critics: I make the decision

Lakas solons rally behind the President

By Carlito Pablo

AS A LEADER, she will not be a wimp. She will make the decisions. She will not be swayed by the winds.

That's President Macapagal-Arroyo speaking during a lunch with reporters yesterday at the state dining room in Malacañang, and commenting on complaints by People Power II forces regarding the political accommodation supposedly being extended to former allies of her deposed predecessor Joseph Estrada.

"A democratic leader does not have to be a wimp," the President declared. It's a new style of governance, she said, adding that while she would still try to listen to the opinions of civil society groups that helped put her in power, "inclusiveness can sometimes be mistaken for trying to please everybody."

"After one-and-a-half years, I find I really cannot do that, especially in divided societies like ours," she said, adding:

"I listen, but in the end I have to make a decision. I cannot forever be moving here and there."

Civil society leaders are up in arms over the supposed impending appointment of opposition Sen. Blas Ople to the Department of Foreign Affairs and the enlistment of the services of Estrada officials Ronaldo and Ricardo Puno and Jaime Policarpio.

The tough tack is a prelude to Ms Macapagal's State of the Nation Address on July 22, when Congress opens.

She said the sobriety of a leader was "part of a strong republic" that "cannot be swayed by histrionics."

"No matter how loud, you have to do what is sober and you have to be strong enough," she said. "You just have to fasten your seatbelt and weather the winds."

"You know, in a strong republic, the leader cannot follow the winds," she said.

The tough talker drew a bead on one of her more vocal critics, Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa).

"He'll have to make a choice," the President said of Saycon, who is a member of the board of directors of the government-controlled Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

"A strong republic cannot afford to have termites from within," she said.

The President said Saycon was not even present during the meeting between members of her Cabinet and civil society leaders last Monday in Makati City.

"He was not invited because the only ones that they invited were supposed to be the ones who care. Copa was not invited," she said.

She also said she could not base her decisions solely on what civil society groups

GMA/A16

THE TOUGH gets going. President Macapagal tells off griping civil society groups that "a strong republic cannot afford to have termites from within."

JOAN BONDOC/FILE PHOTO

Rights groups train guns on Palace pet

'That's the law of the jungle'

By Christine Avendaño and Ayan C. Mellejor
PDI Mindanao Bureau

"THE LAW of the jungle."

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's controversial remarks in Tuesday's anti-kidnapping summit aroused the ire of human rights advocates yesterday, with Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales condemning his seeming endorsement of extra-legal anti-crime measures as something that "applies only to beasts and animals."

"That's the law of the jungle," Rosales said.

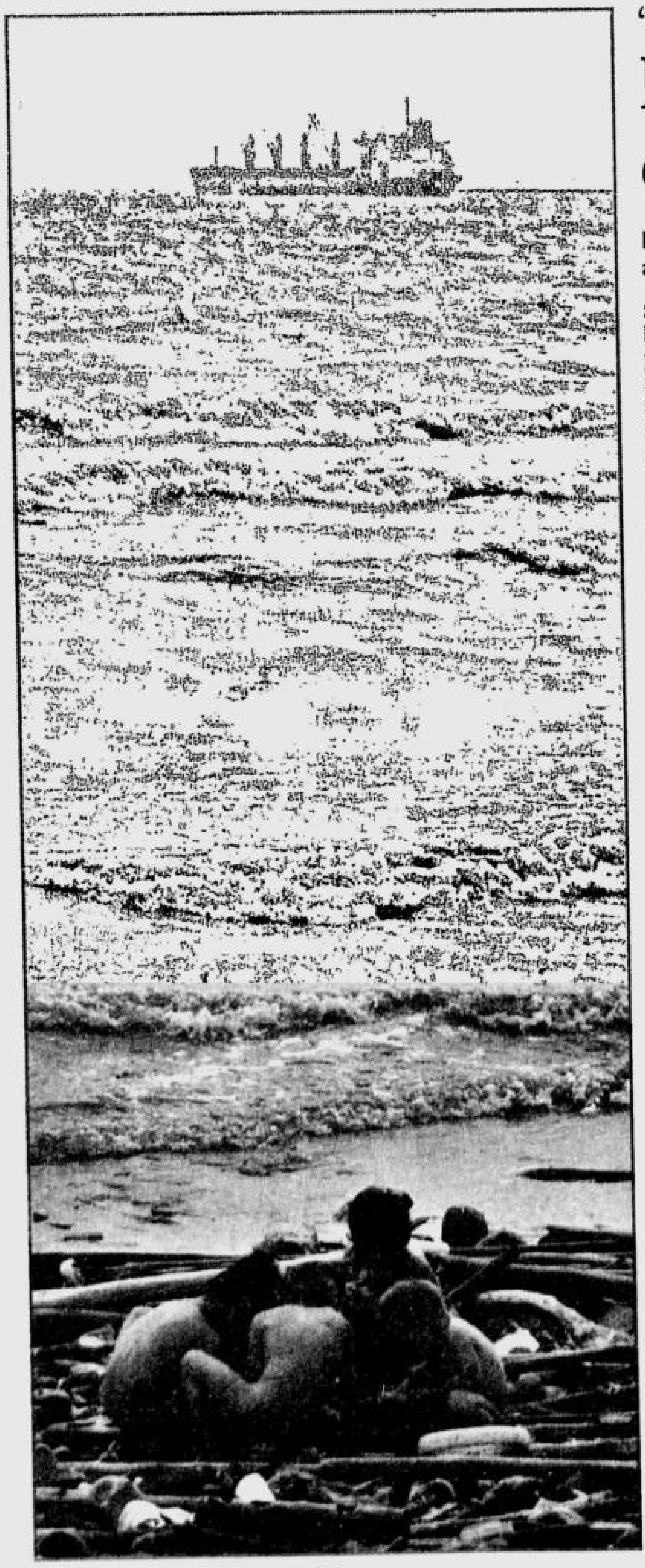
"Does this mean that President Macapagal-Arroyo will sanction salvaging against suspected criminals?" asked Santos Lamban, secretary general of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates. "We do not mean to take away whatever good Mayor Duterte has done for Davao but we cannot tolerate shortcuts that violate due process."

Government officials in Mindanao, however, asked the public to give Duterte, the President's new anti-crime consultant, a chance to perform.

"He must be supported. Let us give him a chance to perform because he is determined to help—and he has the full trust and confidence of the President," Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said.

At the Manila Hotel summit, Duterte took about half an hour to answer one question. His an-

RIGHTS/ A15



SCAVENGERS SUMMIT JESS YUSON

Children along the Manila Bay seawall feast on the scraps and debris washed ashore by the stormy sea.

'CIVIL' UNREST

I am not an enemy of the people–Ople

By Cynthia D. Balana and Carlito Pablo

SEN. Blas Ople yesterday blasted what he called "self-appointed juries" and said his being elected twice to the Senate showed that he was neither an enemy of the government nor of the people.

"I have not applied for the job of secretary of foreign affairs and there has been no firm offer from the President. So why should I be the focus of new hate crimes?" Ople told the INQUIRER.

He added that civil society's posing of the question of "Why sleep with the enemy?" to President Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with the purported offer for him to take on the premier Cabinet post was tantamount to issuing "a call for the eternal bifurcation and fragmentation of the Filipino people."

The opposition senator said he had no quarrel with the civil society groups, including the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), that met Monday with

IAM/ A16

Senate 'working coalition' eyed

By Cynthia D. Balana and Rocky Nazareno

THE OPPOSITION will meet with leaders of the administration coalition in the Senate before Congress opens on July 22 to iron out matters, Sen. Edgardo Angara said yesterday.

Angara said he and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel had a scheduled meeting with Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Loren Legarda. He refused to reveal the specific agenda but said the crucial issues of leadership and work relations would be the general topics.

He said the "narrow and parochial view" that had supposedly pushed President Macapagal-Arroyo to carry out acts to scuttle the opposition in the Senate was lamentable.

Angara said he and what he called the "new majority" would cross party lines to support and pass all bills of national interest.

He said it was the practice and tradition of the Senate to set aside party affiliation on all urgent matters and act on a bipartisan basis.

Angara also said his group was amenable to Legarda's proposal that a working coalition be formed in the Senate to ensure the passage of urgent measures.

"We want healthy working

SENATE/ A16

Weak DOH imperils HMOs; most losing money, says study

By Jerry Esplanada

(Last of three parts)

MERCHANTS OF HEALTH
An I TEAM *Report*

AT LEAST six health maintenance organizations, or HMOs, have gone under in the last four years: Health Check, Excel Care, Asia Health, Health Net, Health Plus and ProHealth.

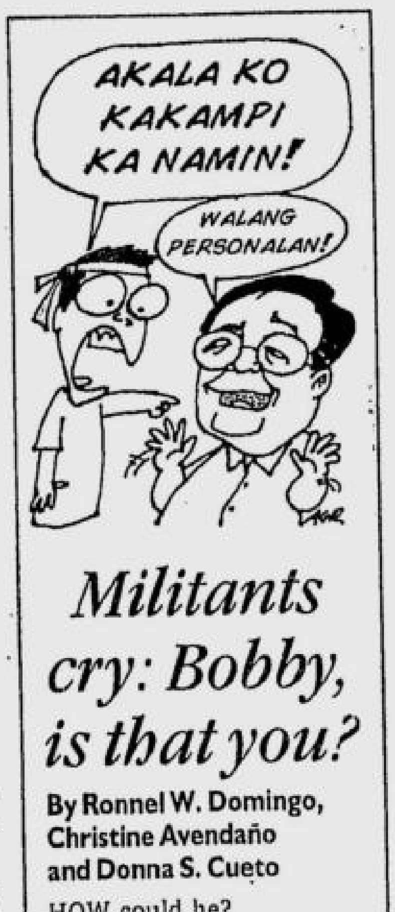
But the smell of death permeates the industry, as HMO and Securities and Exchange Commission insiders say at least three more are in dire straits. A study conducted last year by the state-run Philippine Health Insurance Corp., or Philhealth, found that of the less than 30 HMOs operating in the country, most were losing money.

Excel is an instructive lesson. It stunned the local HMO industry with its fall from grace in 1998. "Having almost 150,000 subscribers at that time, its rise was meteoric and (then) like a shooting star (it) faded in the wink of an eye," wrote Edgardo Clemente in "Mismanaged Care: The Philippine HMO Story."

The firm was over P50 million in debt, including more than P30 million to hospitals and laboratories, P7 million to doctors and about P10 million to Excel subscribers for the unexpired portion of their contracts.

Clemente, a doctor and spokesperson on HMO matters for both the Philippine Medical Association and the Philippine Hospital Association, noted that there were no shaky HMOs in

WEAK/ A16


AKALA KO KAKAMPI KA NAMIN!
WALANG PERSONALAN!

Militants cry: Bobby, is that you?

By Ronnel W. Domingo, Christine Avendaño and Donna S. Cueto

HOW could he?

Allies of former Sen. Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada among militant groups were surprised to learn that he represented Manila Electric Co. yesterday at the hearing of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) on the Lopez-controlled firm's petition for higher rates.

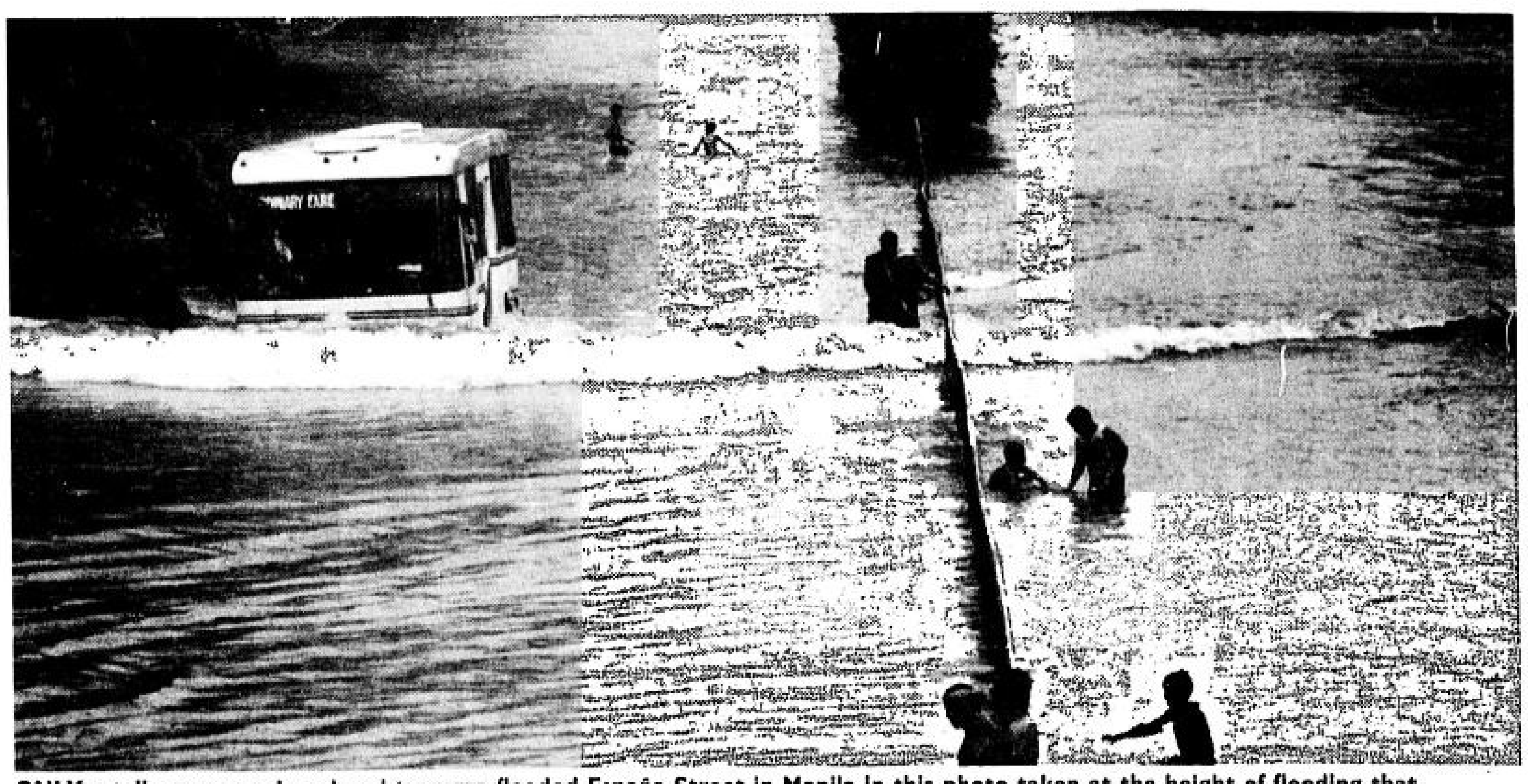
MILITANTS/ A15

Second FRONT PAGE

KAPANGALAN PA NAMAN NI MADAM PRESIDENT!

Monsoon toll: 30 dead, 41 injured

THE DEATH toll from monsoon rains and typhoon "Gloria" (international name: Chata'an) throughout the country rose to 30 with four persons still missing and 41 injured, the civil defense office said Wednesday.


ONLY a tall passenger bus dared traverse flooded España Street in Manila in this photo taken at the height of flooding that paralyzed most of Luzon last weekend.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

The count included three South Koreans who died and two others who remain missing after the motorboat they were riding in capsized off Batangas at the height of the rains on Saturday.

The latest casualties were three persons found drowned in Rizal and Pampanga provinces, civil defense reports showed, according to the Agence France Presse.

Although the rains have eased, many areas north of Manila remain flooded with residents forced to use makeshift boats to get around. These are in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

In the provinces, several mountain roads were blocked by landslides.

Initial damage estimates from the rains, which was exacerbated by the threat posed by new typhoon "Hambalos" (international name: Nakri) had risen to nearly P64 million, the civil defense office said.

More than 13,000 people remain in evacuation centers.

Typhoon Hambalos, which was charted near the Philippines earlier this week, has since moved northeast and its effect is expected to lessen, the weather office said.

However, monsoon rains were expected to continue over northern Philippines and residents of low-lying areas were warned to take precautions.

Floodwaters had risen to almost two meters in some areas on Tuesday as the death toll from four days of monsoon rains climbed and strong winds lashed much of the country.

Most of the victims drowned or were killed in landslides.

The number of affected families rose to 144,964, or about 700,000 persons. Less than half have received assistance. Relief aid in food supplies and temporary shelters reached about P3 million.

The prolonged flooding caused road damage and traffic bottlenecks. Local radio reported higher fish and vegetable prices in some areas, according to The Associated Press.

The Ambuklao dam in Benguet province in the north was partially opened Tuesday morning in order to prevent its overflow.

Residents along the lower Agno river basin were advised that water levels could rise rapidly.

The heavy rains began last Friday. The edge of typhoon Gloria, which was expected to reach the Japanese island of Okinawa yesterday morning, and a tropical depression to the west contributed to the continuing bad weather.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said, however, the country could expect better weather today as tropical depression Hambalos continued to move northeast over the South China Sea.

Pagasa said Hambalos was estimated at 480 kilometers northwest of Basco, Batanes, with maximum winds of 65 kph near the center. It was forecast to move northeast at 13 kph.

But the southwest monsoon, or "hanging habagat," affecting Luzon and the Visayas will continue to bring rainshowers to the regions, including Metro Manila and the lahar areas in Pampanga, according to the weather bureau.

The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms.

The Department of Agriculture said cloud seeding operations will be conducted even after the heavy rains since the water in dams crucial to crop irrigation in Luzon were still low.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said the water levels at the Angat and Pantabangan dams were still below their respective "effective levels" despite the heavy rains.

The Maynilad Water Co. said the water level at Angat Dam was at 184.34 meters, a little over its critical level of 180 meters. The Angat Dam dipped to a low of 176 meters before the onslaught of typhoons Gloria and Hambalos. Its spillover level is at 217 meters.

The Pantabangan Dam had a water level of 174.55 meters, while the water level at Magat Dam was at 167.68 meters.

"The rains experienced in Region II were not significant to reverse the trend of crop damage due to the extended dry spell," Montemayor said. "We will intensify cloud seeding in the Magat area to mitigate this critical condition." ***Gerald G. Lacuarta with AFP, AP reports***

Army admits own shell killed soldier

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The mortar shell that killed a soldier and wounded eight others in Patikul, Sulu on Tuesday had belonged to the military.

This was contrary to initial reports that the mortar shell had been fired by the Abu Sayyaf in an encounter with Scout Rangers.

Maj. Roderick Parayno, Southern Command information officer, said the mortar platoon of the 14th Infantry Battalion (not the 14th Scout Rangers as reported) was preparing a mortar round when it exploded.

The team was giving artillery support to soldiers scouring Luba Hill in Barangay Tanum for Abu Sayyaf bandits at around 9 a.m. on Tuesday.

"While preparing the mortar round, it exploded," Parayno said. He admitted that "there was no encounter then."

Parayno identified the dead soldier as Sgt. Danilo Flores. The wounded were T/Sgt. Fernando Morga, S/Sgt. Benjamin Rellota, S/Sgt. Abner Cristobal, Sgt. Francisco Bueno, Cpl. Conrado Buga, Pfc. Alexander Apostol, Pfc. Nelion Yadao and Pfc. Ferdinand Salubao.

Col. Romeo Tolentino, 104th Infantry Brigade commander, had said a 14th IB advance team had requested mortar support after spotting a group of armed men, who had their own mortar launchers, on Luba Hill.

Even after Parayno's disclosure, Southcom chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina and Tolentino continued to insist it was an enemy shell that had hit the soldiers.

Parayno said that to clear the matter, the military has sent a team to Patikul to "conduct an investigation of the incident."

Sulu Gov. Yusop Jikiri urged the military to conduct thorough checks of its artillery.

Jikiri said defective artillery is likely to harm civilians more than the Abu Sayyaf.

He said he was witness to several incidents when he was with the Moro National Liberation Front where the military had used defective artillery shells.

"Minsan kulang ang powder *o di kaya matagal o luma na ang kanilang ginagamit na bala, nakakatakot yan* (Sometimes they don't have enough powder, or the artillery shells are old and take long to explode, it's scary.)," Jikiri, a former MNLF commander, said.

Abu 'poster girl' cleared

NO LESS than Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu has stepped into the case of the tabloid reporter who had been inadvertently tagged an Abu Sayyaf leader.

Cimatu yesterday ordered a review of the photos used on wanted posters of Abu Sayyaf leaders, like Khadaffi Janjalani, the Hapilon brothers and others, among whom appeared the picture of Bernadette Tamayo, defense reporter of People's Journal.

Tamayo came out the other day and denounced military intelligence for including her photo on the posters.

Cimatu ordered Tamayo's photo removed, even as he said the military would issue a certificate to her affirming that she was not a member of the Abu Sayyaf.

"I know (Tamayo), she used to cover our effort in Lanao del Norte. Because of that news item, I directed the Southern Command to conduct an inquiry and I directed J-2 (AFP intelligence) to issue a certification that (she) is not on the list of the Abu Sayyaf group and that should settle the issue," Cimatu told reporters.

"You can carry that anywhere," he added, referring to the certification.

Tamayo's photo appeared on a wanted poster at the 18th Infantry Battalion camp in April last year. Wanted posters began sprouting around southern Mindanao after President Macapagal-Arroyo put up a P100-million reward fund for the capture of Abu Sayyaf leaders. ***Martin P. Marfil***

Lumbao pleads not guilty

URBAN poor leader Ronald Lumbao, a staunch supporter of deposed President Joseph Estrada, pleaded not guilty to rebellion charges at his arraignment yesterday before a Manila regional trial court.

Lumbao, president of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), has been accused of leading thousands of Estrada supporters who stormed Malacañang on May 1 last year in an attempt to install Estrada back to power. The event has been dubbed "Edsa Tres."

"What occurred on May 1, 2001 may have been an outbreak of lawless violence, but certainly there was no rebellion or any armed rebel to speak of," Lumbao said in a three-page petition.

Before entering his plea, the PMAP leader made a brief spiel, enumerating a litany of woes against the police, the prosecution and the Macapagal administration.

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Yanks want to hold Balikatan in Sulu—GMA

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday it's the Americans who want to hold the next Balikatan joint military exercises in Sulu.

Ms Macapagal said she would have preferred the exercises returned to Luzon, their original venue.

But she was promptly contradicted by her Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Roy Cimatu, who said that it was he who had suggested the training exercises be held in Sulu at the urging of that province's leaders.

Cimatu said he had made the proposal in a letter to his US counterpart yesterday.

A fresh round of US-Philippine military exercises will be held later this year, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said yesterday, possibly on the island of Jolo in the Sulu archipelago, where Muslim gunmen have held three Indonesian seamen hostage for more than three weeks.

"Its purpose is to enhance the capability of Filipino forces to fight domestic and international terrorism," Reyes said.

About 1,000 US soldiers are winding up a six-month counter-terrorism training exercise on Basilan island on July 31.

Speaking to the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, Reyes said the terms of reference governing the current exercise should be interpreted liberally to allow US troops to help Filipino soldiers fight terrorists on other islands, not just on Basilan.

"The objective of the exercise is to address the Abu Sayyaf problem... so the advising and the supporting and the training should extend to running after and neutralizing the Abu Sayyaf and lawless elements whether in Basilan or Sulu," Reyes said.

Maj. Cynthia Teramae, spokesperson for the US contingent in Zamboanga City, said there are no US troops in Jolo and the US military has not received any specific request for assistance from the Armed Forces of the Philippines to operate on the island.

The President said she wanted the new exercises held in Luzon but was flexible about having a component in the south.

"The Sulu idea came from the US side. My own concern is it goes back to Fort Magsaysay (in Nueva Ecija) and Tanay (in Rizal)," she told Palace reporters yesterday.

"Sulu is fine with me as long as the main exercises are in Luzon," Ms Macapagal added.

Cimatu said Muslim leaders in Sulu like Parouk Hussin, governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and Sultan Kiram of the Sulu Sultanate, and other Sulu leaders, had made the request, and based on such requests, he had recommended that the next exercise be held there. ***Martin Marfil and AP, Reuters***

RP docs to demonstrate surgery Erap needs

By A. Nocum

ORTHOPEDIC surgeons will carry out "live surgery demonstrations" on three indigent patients with knee and hip ailments to illustrate that Filipino doctors are competent to undertake the procedures.

Dr. Albert Dy, scientific program chair of the Philippine Hip and Knee Society (PHKS), said the operations, which will be performed on Friday at the UP-PGH, "would debunk the misimpression that we do not do such operations here."

Dy told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview that deposed President Joseph Estrada's insistence that surgery on his arthritic knees be done in the US gave people the impression that local doctors could not competently perform such operations here.

Dy said one of the patients to be operated on has the same ortho-arthritic problem as Estrada, "but more severe."

The surgical demonstrations will kick off this year's three-day Second Asian Joints Symposium sponsored by PHKS and Johnson and Johnson Medical Phil.

In the meantime, the Sandiganbayan granted yesterday the request of Estrada and his co-accused son Jinggoy to be allowed to vote in the July 15 barangay elections.

It was the second time the anti-graft court allowed the two to exercise their right of suffrage while in detention. The first time was during the May 2001 national elections.

And like the first time, the Estradas would have to cast their votes at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, where they are detained and where poll officials would bring the necessary election paraphernalia.

At their plunder trial yesterday, Estrada defense lawyers tried to extricate Jinggoy from the charges by presenting documents they said would belie the testimony of prosecution witness Emma Lim.

Defense lawyers Prospero Crescini and Irene Jurado marked as evidence "certifications" that Jinggoy never had a checking account at the United Overseas Bank of the Philippines, contrary to Lim's testimony that she had received a "personalized" UOBP check from Jinggoy bearing his photo and the official seal of the San Juan municipal government where he was the mayor.

The certifications were issued by two UOBP executives.

The P1-million check, which Lim said Jinggoy personally handed to her on March 17, 2000, represented a portion of illegal gambling proceeds allegedly meant for then President Joseph Estrada.

Lim told the court last week the check was the last of three she got from Jinggoy, the first two also having been made to cash for P1 million each. ***With Volt Contreras***

More generals being forced out?

By TJ Burgonio

ARE more police generals on the way out, in the wake of the recent resignation of 30 officers in protest of the firing of seven regional police officials?

Generals in directorial posts are reportedly being asked to sign prepared resignation letters to give new police chief, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., a "free hand" in a reorganization.

The resignation letters were being circulated among members of the Philippine National Police's directorial staff in Camp Crame, Quezon City, for their signatures, sources told the INQUIRER.

A police general confirmed the letters, but did not say who was circulating them.

"The move is not unprecedented because such an action is expected from the PNP chief, but there is something wrong with the manner it was done—it was insulting," said the official, who asked not to be named.

He said that in past administrations, officials were only given verbal orders to resign but were not handed individual resignation letters.

Korean war vets mark 52nd year

THE 52nd anniversary of the Korean War was marked recently with a reunion of veterans who served in the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea (Peftok).

Guest of honor Korean Ambassador Shin Sung-Oh in his speech said, "Indeed, there is no better opportunity than this to pay tribute to the gallant Peftok soldiers who came to our aid and fought shoulder to shoulder with my countrymen in defense of our freedom and democracy.

"On behalf of my people, I wish to convey once again our profound gratitude," said Shin.

Shin also congratulated this year's scholars under the Peftok scholarship program, which is supported by the Korean government.

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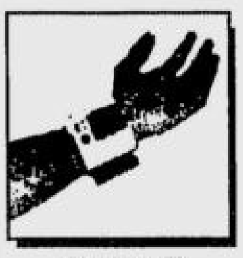

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Allopurinol Tablet 300 mg	9.00	Dicycloverine Syrup 10 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	38.00
Amoxicillin capsule 250 mg	3.50	Erythromycin Susp. 200 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	110.00
Amoxicillin Capsule 500 mg	5.00	Guaifenesin Syrup 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	45.00
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Amoxicillin Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	52.00	Mebendazole Susp. 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	46.00
Amoxicillin Suspension 250 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	65.00	Mefenamic Acid Tablet 500 mg	3.00
Ampicillin capsule 500 mg	6.50	Paracetamol Drops	31.00
Carbocisteine (SCMC) Capsule 500 mg	4.20	Paracetamol Syrup 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	23.50
Carbocisteine Syrup (SCMC) 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	46.00	Paracetamol Syrup 250 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	33.00
Chloramphenicol capsule 250 mg	3.50	Paracetamol Tablet 500 mg	1.00
Chloramphenicol Capsule 500 mg	5.90	Prednisone Tablet 5mg	3.10
Chloramphenicol Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	63.00	Pyrazinamide Tablet 500 mg	5.50
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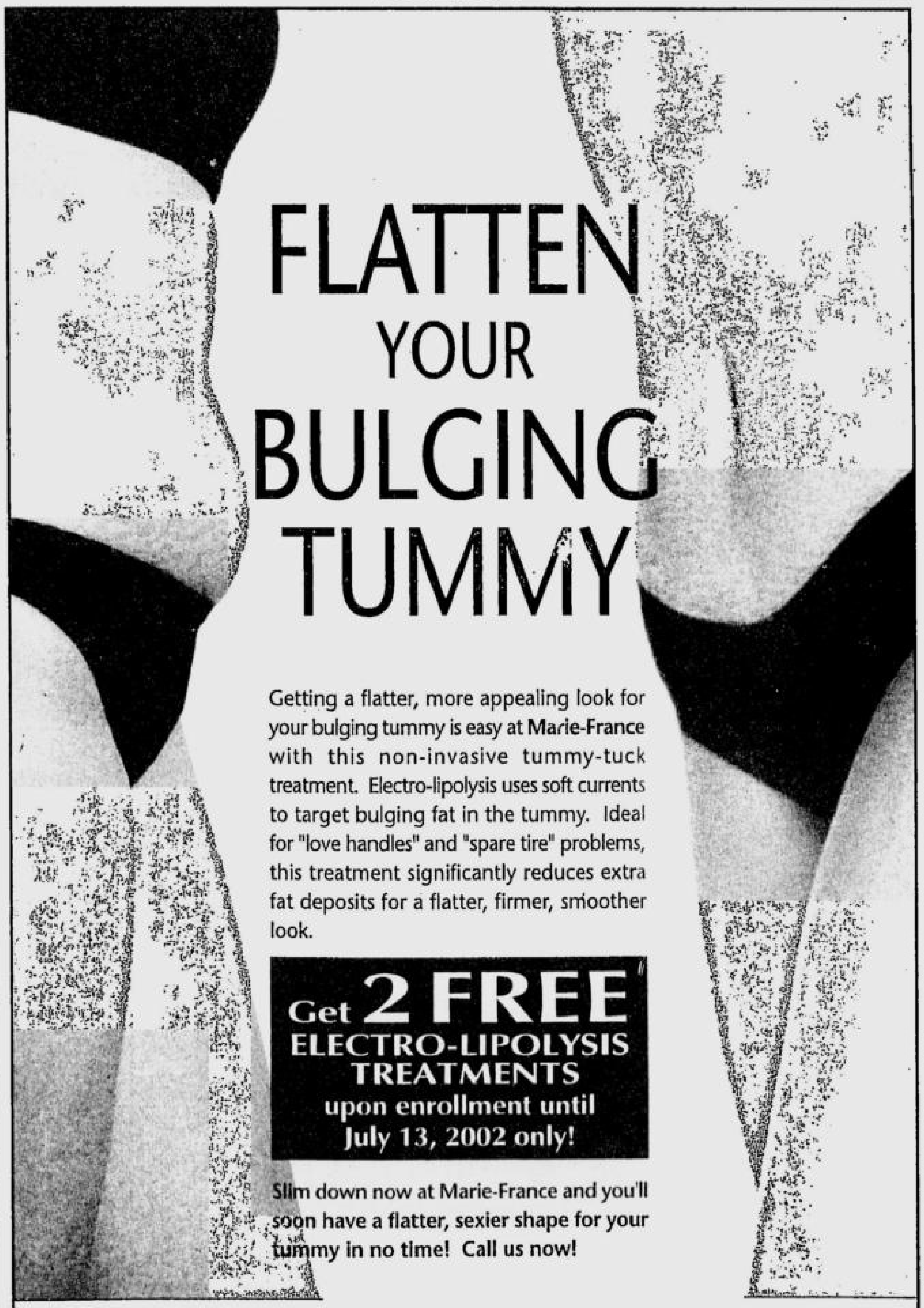

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JULY 15 IS NON-WORKING HOLIDAY

Bad weather could nix barangay polls

By Blanche S. Rivera and Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has declared July 15, the day of the barangay and youth elections, a special non-working holiday but the polls could end up being postponed "if the weather makes it impossible for people to go out and vote," according to Acting Commission on Elections chair Rufino Javier.

The poll body is still waiting for word from its election officers in the field who are expected to make recommendations this week whether it would be possible for the polls to push through.

If compelled to go through with the exercise despite the weather, the Comelec's contingency plans will see voters casting their ballots inside tents, public markets, private schools and some other venues to be rented.

Evacuees from the heavy monsoon rains and floods that paralyzed Metro Manila and other parts of the country last week have filled the public schools that are the traditional venue of election exercises.

In a press briefing with education officials yesterday, the Comelec commissioners said the en banc was keen to tap private schools and other places that can be rented as alternative polling places if public schools continue to be filled with evacuees.

In issuing Proclamation No. 217 declaring July 15 a special non-working holiday nationwide, the President said it is important to give the people the fullest opportunity to participate in the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections and exercise their right to vote.

Last Tuesday, the President appeared in a television broadcast exhorting the people to "work for honest, orderly and peaceful elections."

Ms Macapagal said the polls are "not a small thing" because "the future of our communities depend on this very important election."

The President reminded the people that they are going to choose leaders who will "take care of our communities, guard and protect us against criminals, and tend to the daily needs of our communities."

She said the candidates "may be your relatives, friends, neighbors or respected people in your areas but what is important is that you will vote for them."

Commissioner Resurreccion Borra said the alternative polling places should be within the barangay, although voters could be allowed to use the polling place of neighboring barangays.

Borra said the contingency plans would entail "very nominal" fees and would not be a drain on the Comelec's P1.3-billion budget for the elections.

The Comelec would have to request additional security personnel to be deputized in the alternative polling places, however.

"Higher security is a risk we have to take," Commissioner Mehol Sadain said.

"We're still hoping that the schools will be vacated by July 15," he said.

Sadain said the lawmakers overlooked the fact that the election date had been set on a rainy month which has entailed some problems.

The Comelec has turned over P461 million to the Department of Education for the payment of some 570,000 teachers who will serve as election tellers in the July 15 polls.

Javier gave the check for P461,061,600 to Education Undersecretary Ernesto Pangan in a turnover ceremony at the Comelec central office yesterday.

Pangan said the money would be encashed and distributed to the regional offices and delivered to the school principals by yesterday afternoon.

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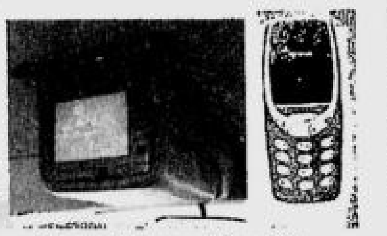

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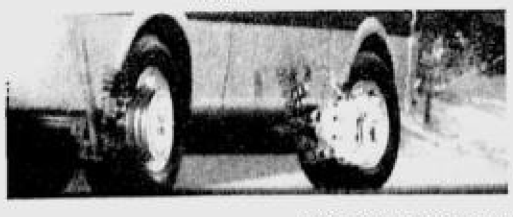

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AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD w/ LCD TV	✓	—	—	—
Side mirrors w/ demister	✓	—	—	—
Roof rack w/ rails	✓	—	—	—
Alloy wheels	✓	—	✓	—
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service warranty	3/75	2/50	2/50	2/50
SRP	P 854,000	P1,088,000	P876,000	P1,270,000

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Swivelling 2nd row seat	✓	—	—	—
AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD with TV	✓	—	—	—
2-tone body colors	✓	—	✓	✓
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
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Bahrain zeroes in on gay OFWs

By Blanche S. Rivera

HOW do you deal with runaway gay workers?

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration could be facing that problem soon as authorities in Bahrain start a "crackdown" on gay workers in what is arguably the richest state in the Middle East.

Citing a report from its center in Bahrain, Owwa chief Wilhelm Soriano yesterday said the agency was anticipating a deluge of runaway gay OFWs if the crackdown should push through next week.

Soriano said Bahrain police and immigration service have served notice to the owners of shops and other establishments employing gay workers of any nationality.

Bahraini authorities reportedly suspect some beauty salons, tailoring and dress shops, massage parlors and flower shops employing gay workers of doubling as prostitution dens for homosexuals.

"The embassy and welfare officers are more than willing to take up the cudgels for gay OFWs as soon as they receive an official notice from the Bahraini government on the planned crackdown," Soriano said in a statement released yesterday.

The Owwa statement said most of the 1,500 OFWS in Bahrain are gay males employed in around 500 beauty salons and dress shops in Bahrain.

Bahraini authorities have warned at least two shops employing gay workers that they would be padlocked if they are shown to be "havens for illicit homosexual activities and prostitution," the Owwa said.

The gay workers in those shops would be immediately deported.

Some shop owners and their gay workers have asked the Philippine embassy in Bahrain to make representations with the Bahrain government for the grant of a six-month grace period.

Filipino jailed in HK for fraud

HONG KONG—A Filipino was jailed here yesterday for seven years and four months over a "boiler room" scam that defrauded investors of about HK$13 million ($1.7 million).

Renato Cemine Tandoc, 27, pleaded guilty to setting up companies in Hong Kong and opening bank accounts to collect the fraudulent proceeds amounting to HK$13 million.

The money was then moved on to the Philippines where bank secrecy laws prevented further tracing of the funds. The "boiler room" operation and salesmen were based in the Philippines.

Police said Tandoc was part of a syndicate that cold-called potential investors and induced them to buy shares in a company that they claimed was listed or about to be listed in the United States.

Victims were traced in Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand and Britain, the police said.

"These boiler room syndicates deliberately base themselves in one jurisdiction, call victims in other jurisdictions and launder the proceeds through a third, making it difficult for law enforcement agencies to tackle them effectively," a police spokesperson said.

Other members of the syndicate are now on the run, Hong Kong press reports said.

The syndicate kept the investors' stocks and they were eventually told that their investment had fallen through.

In the second stage of the scam, the syndicate offered to "swap" the stocks purchased by the investors for US blue-chip shares.

The investors were then persuaded to pay an advance fee to cover the difference between the value of the stocks they had purchased and the current value of the blue chips. *AFP*

62 illegals forced back from Xiamen

SIXTY-TWO illegally recruited Filipinos were repatriated in two batches from China last Monday, the Philippine consulate in Xiamen has reported.

The first group arrived last Sunday and the second batch on Monday, the foreign affairs department said in a statement yesterday.

According to the consulate's report, the 62 illegally recruited Filipinos had been promised jobs as factory or office workers and had paid recruitment fees ranging from P55,000 to P100,000.

The first batch of the illegally recruited group arrived in China on July 5. They were met by Philippine consulate officials after a representative of the recruitment company, a certain Lyn Bautista (also known as Agnes Benig), failed to show up at the airport.

Consular officials said the recruits had been issued one-way tickets by four travel agencies—Ultraman Travel, Holiday High Tours, Travel Plan Inc. and Amity Travel.

The victims recounted that they paid from P30,000 to P40,000 for their tickets and visas.

They said they paid the money to a certain Rebecca Naval of Bach Travel Agency located in Ermita, Manila.

Naval, said to be the publisher of "Philippine Direct News", was allegedly working with a Merissa Sommes who is based in Xiamen.

The consulate has confiscated the passports of Bautista and Sommes who are now undergoing investigation. *Rocky Nazareno*

Carolina Pe Benito, 87

CAROLINA Calica Pe Benito died on July 8, 2002 at the age of 87. She is survived by her children, Jun and Bert. Her remains lie in state at the Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo Rizal.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 14, at the San Juan Catholic Cemetery in San Juan, after the 8 p.m. necrological services.

Sa wakas, tamang gamot sa tamang presyo!

RiteMED™

Right Medicine, Priced Right™

United Laboratories launches RiteMed, a new line of medicines of the highest quality, a concrete response to the high cost of medicines.

United Laboratories, Inc. formally launches an affiliate marketing company, RiteMed Philippines, Inc. today, July 11, 2002.

With initial 21 product offerings, it plans to launch a complete line of pharmaceutical products which includes anti-asthma, anti-hypertension, anti-cholesterol, anti-TB and other life saving anti-infectives.

RiteMed will be fully manned by professionals who will extend support and services to its clientele: the physicians, the drugstores, the pharmacists and patients. The establishment of RiteMed is an answer to the existing problem of assuring the clients with available products that are not only economical but also efficacious and safe.

This is achieved by sourcing its products from manufacturers that are certified CGMP (Current Good Manufacturing Practice) or U.S. FDA approved.

The products will be made available nationwide thru UNILAB's own distribution system.

All these initiatives are in keeping with the spirit behind the company's slogan, "Right Medicine, Priced Right." These efforts will be sustained to firmly establish RiteMed as a superior company in terms of quality and service in the region.

I extend my cordial greetings to the management and staff of United Laboratories, Inc. on the launching of its affiliate, RiteMed Philippines, Inc.

Launching of pharmaceutical companies like RiteMed Philippines, Inc. exemplifies your commitment to improve the health and welfare of our people. Moreover, your initiative to produce affordable medicines is an indication of the strong partnership between government and the private sector to improve access to basic health goods and services in the country.

Your substantial investment is vital to our country's economic growth and to our aspiration for sustainable development. The time, money and effort that you invested is a gesture of your confidence in the economic, social and political stability of our country. It also gives recognition to the competence, reliability and diligence of the Filipino workforce.

I, therefore, welcome and greatly appreciate the significant presence of RiteMed in the Philippines. Let us continue to work together in nation-building to bring to fruition our national aspirations for sustained development, prosperity and a better quality of life for the Filipino people.

MABUHAY!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

We would like to convey our warmest congratulations to United Laboratories, Inc. (UNILAB) for launching RiteMed Philippines, Inc., a new Filipino pharmaceutical company envisioned to provide a wide array of quality yet affordable medicines.

The establishment of RiteMed as a new player in the pharmaceutical scene is of particular significance to our work in the health department as we aim to achieve President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's July 2001 SONA commitment of bringing down the prices of medicines commonly used by the poor.

We in the Department of Health, therefore, would like to express our appreciation to UNILAB for heeding government's call for the Philippine pharmaceutical industry to be more responsive to the needs of the Filipino population. We recognize your company's contribution to our collective goal of alleviating poverty by addressing specific poverty-related problems such as inequitable access to affordable medicines and quality healthcare.

RiteMed likewise exemplifies both relevance and self-reliance as it highlights the Filipino's capability to rise to the occasion and to actively participate in improving health outcomes among our people, a vital element towards achieving the task of nation-building. May your shining example inspire the rest of the stakeholders to push for wider reforms in the health sector.

On this note, we would like to once again congratulate you for this noteworthy endeavor. Together, we can move this country towards better health, sustainable progress and lasting peace.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

Our warmest greetings to RiteMed Philippines, Inc. on the launching of its initial set of products on 11 July 2002.

It is heartening to note that through RiteMed Philippines, a new line of quality products with prices lower by 24% to 81% compared to those of the leading brands will be introduced in the local market. This initiative underscores that our efforts to provide quality and affordable medicines need not be a purely government endeavor but can also be adopted by the private sector.

RiteMed's noble initiative definitely complements and supports DTI's thrust of bringing down high medicine prices in the local market to more reasonable and affordable levels for many ordinary Filipino consumers, especially those who cannot afford the expensive cost of healthcare, through our *Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya.* Launched in April 2000, the program involves the importation of widely recognized, off-patent, branded medicines usually prescribed for the most common ailments and diseases. To date, over 70 local government units (LGUs) at the provincial, city and municipal levels have committed their participation as outlets for *Presyong Tama.* Beginning July 2002, a range of 26 brands of medicines for various ailments will be made available in as many as 200 government pharmacies and health centers nationwide.

We are confident that RiteMed would also contribute to government efforts to promote consumer welfare by providing its clientele with the best quality and value for money that the market could offer - thereby widening the options available to Filipino consumers in the area of medicines and healthcare products.

To RiteMed Philippines Inc., our sincere congratulations on your product launching and our best wishes for success as a partner in the task of making affordable quality medicines more available to the Filipino nation.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary of Trade and Industry

The launching of our affiliate marketing company RiteMed gives latest form and substance to the UNILAB mission: the delivery of affordable medicines of the highest quality. RiteMed has lined up the widest array of off-patent products, the most basic life-saving and life-sustaining drugs, not only to answer the health needs of the Filipinos but to fill some existing economic gaps as well.

Behind RiteMed is almost six decades of UNILAB knowledge and experience in the technology, production and delivery of pharmaceuticals. This knowledge and experience have made our *products* the products of choice with respect to quality and affordability. This knowledge and experience have made UNILAB the top pharmaceutical company in the Philippines for so many years as well as a leading healthcare organization in the region today.

We have in RiteMed a rich pool of talents specially trained to communicate to the healthcare providers and to the end-users the advantages and availability of high quality and more affordable medicines. The people who comprise this pool will be all around the country to ensure that the **"Right Medicine, Priced Right"** will be at the right time in the right place.

Kudos to the RiteMed organization.

JOSELITO D. CAMPOS, JR.
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
United Laboratories, Inc.

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Mercenaries

EDITORIAL

THE BLAS Ople fiasco has spun a wider fallout. The administration has cast a net to recruit not only opposition Senator Ople into the Cabinet, but also a number of others closely associated with former President Joseph Estrada. The more prominent among those who have been "sounded out" are Ronaldo Puno, Estrada's interior secretary; Ricardo Puno, press secretary; and Jimmy Policarpio, legislative liaison secretary.

Efforts to draft Ople as foreign secretary have created such a furor that they now seem to have been dropped like hot coals. But reports that the Puno brothers and Policarpio have been invited to join the administration camp were too much to take, as far as President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's allies in the campaign to oust Estrada were concerned. The prospects of the administration "sleeping with the enemy" snapped the tolerance of the more noisy segments of the so-called "civil society."

In a confrontation meeting at the Heritage Foundation in Makati early this week, the more outspoken leaders of civil society expressed outrage over the administration's politics of addition, and warned Cabinet members present there might be resignations in the Cabinet if Ople were appointed to the Department of Foreign Affairs and the three other Estrada functionaries given government posts.

The truth is that there were informal negotiations between Ople and the President's emissaries, who offered him the foreign affairs portfolio. In regard to the three others, the situation is more fuzzy. First Gentleman Mike Arroyo told INQUIRER editors last week that no firm offers were dangled before them. It just happened in the golf course, during his birthday, where he asked the Puno brothers casually if they could help the administration.

Whether there were serious offers to recruit these Estrada cohorts to join the administration—in whatever capacity—the reports on such "sounding out" were enough to send the civil society groups up in arms against the administration. The grievance of these groups is that in enlisting Estrada allies into the administration, the President would be rewarding the "enemy" at the expense of alienating her own allies.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo was said to have been offended by the implied challenge for the administration to choose between the civil society militants and the Estrada supporters.

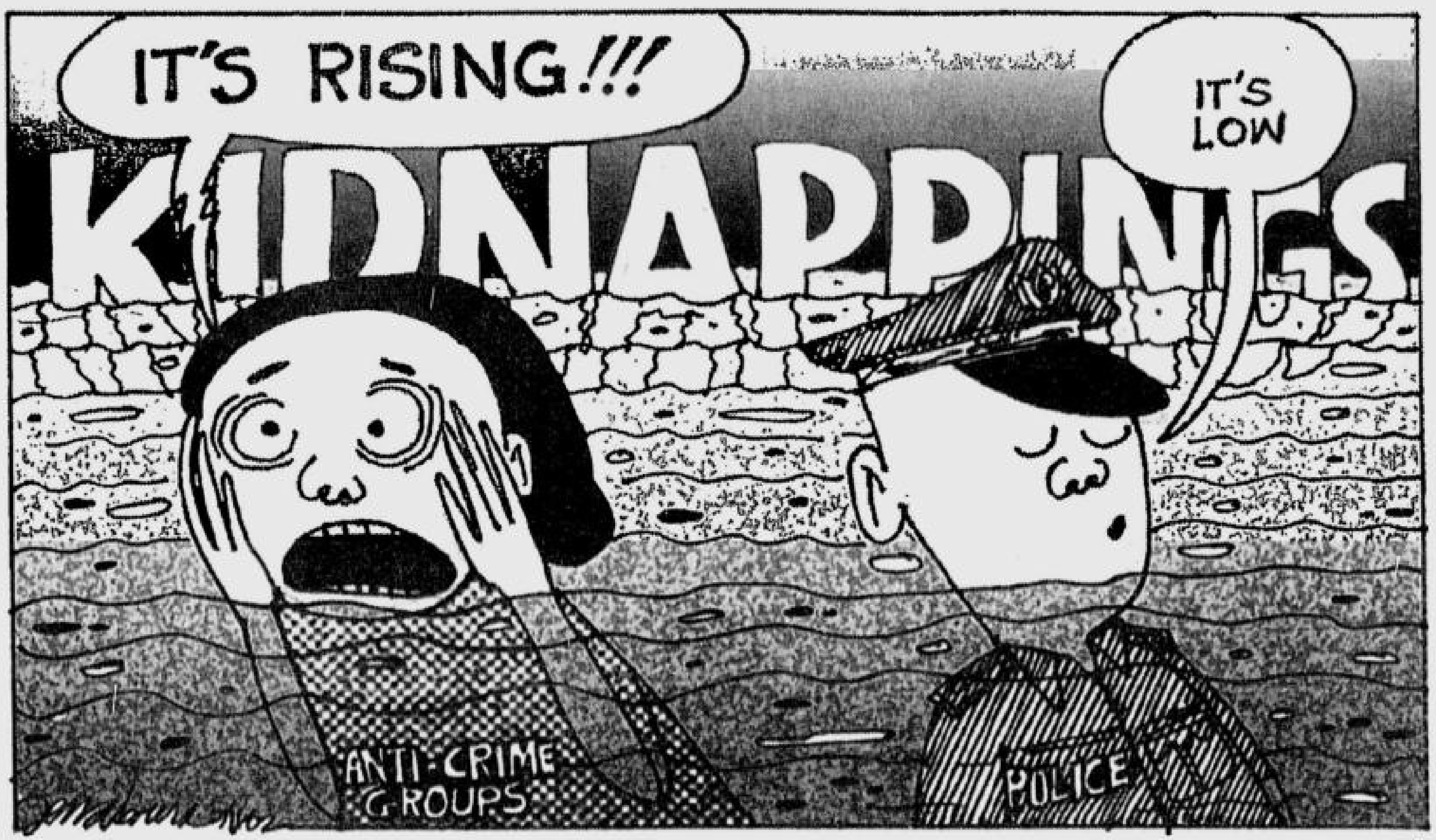
The militants have offended the government and a large section of the public with their attitude that they were responsible for Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency and that they therefore have veto power over her decisions. But as Romulo correctly pointed out, other groups were in the movement to oust Estrada and the militants could not claim a monopoly of the virtues of good governance.

It does not help civil society groups, as they try to put pressure on the government, that they do not speak as one voice. They have different agendas and often have contradictory aims. Still, the government cannot ignore the strong negative reaction of these groups to the recruitment of erstwhile foes into the administration. There is the possibility these disgruntled and fractious groups have found a rallying point against the government in the plan to recruit Estrada allies—clearly as mercenaries.

Mercenaries are never dependable allies. If they can desert their former allies, there's no reason they will not betray their new ones. These mercenaries cannot help the government in improving governance—notwithstanding the reputation of Ronaldo Puno as a political strategist who helped both Presidents Ramos and Estrada in their campaigns. Puno left the Estrada Cabinet in the wake of a corruption scandal involving procurement of supplies for the Philippine National Police.

Neither can they help enhance Ms Macapagal's electoral chances in 2004. Their recruitment could in fact lead to the disintegration of the already fractured coalition that carried her to the presidency.

Even to the public, the recruitment of Estrada allies, especially into the Cabinet, would be hard to accept.



Senator Ople: DFA post is tied to politics

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SEN. Blas Ople is still salivating for the secretaryship of the Department of Foreign Affairs in spite of intense opposition from the allies of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and from Ople's own allies in the opposition. Despite all the criticism, he defended his acceptance of the DFA post though he admits there is no formal offer yet. So what is he trying to do, force the President to make the formal offer because he has already "accepted" it?

"When there are calls to citizens to accept certain challenges," he said in a press briefing, "this could not be taken lightly especially if the offer is sincere and not tied up to any political consideration."

But that's just it, there is a political reason for tempting him with the DFA job: so the administration senators can regain the Senate majority when he is no longer there. As the INQUIRER editorial yesterday said, "he is being wooed now" ...not because of "some sterling qualities he thinks he possesses..." but strictly because of politics.

But Ople lusts for the job so much he is in denial mode. "I would rather not tie this up with the struggle in the Senate," he said. But it is tied up with the Senate struggle, whether he likes it or not.

Ople also appealed to his opposition partymates not to put "everything on his shoulders" as he is "just a cog with a small voice in the opposition." He said he would go on leave from the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino should he accept the DFA post. "But I assure them that I will fulfill my promise that I will vote on July 22 for the new majority. It will only be after that I would consider the Malacañang offer for the DFA post," he added.

Consider? He has already accepted it, even though it has not been formally offered to him yet.

Mr. Senator, please don't try to be cute.

* * *

It is not as if Ople can make a difference in foreign policy. Ople has assiduously cultivated the image of being a nationalist. But President Macapagal's policies are pro-American and pro-globalization and it is the President who sets the policies, not the DFA. Will Ople shed his nationalist posture? Because if he doesn't, he will run headlong into the anti-Filipino policies of the President, as Vice President and outgoing Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona did. If Ople does not play with the Macapagal team, she can always accept his resignation-even if he has not submitted any—or fire him directly. In which case he can no longer return to the Senate. Once he resigns his Senate seat and accepts a Cabinet position, that's it, he's out of the Senate permanently.

Ople should remember what happened to Rep. Florencio Abad of Batanes. Abad resigned from the House of Representatives and accepted the secretaryship of the Department of Agrarian Reform. When the Commission on Appointments did not confirm his appointment, President Aquino replaced him. Abad could no longer go back to the House. He was jobless and his constituents were left without representation for the remainder of his term.

* * *

Will Ople try to change our present pro-US policies? For our top leadership has been a most willing participant in the virtual ceding of our national patrimony to Uncle Sam, letting him have his way in many critical areas of our lives. The WTO, globalization, VFA, Balikatan—these are some of the policies that, we were told, would redound to our benefit. In reality, they serve US interests more than they do us. Just ask the tuna fishermen of General Santos. Or the banana growers in Davao. Or the thousands of laid-off workers in different Philippine industries.

How will Ople resolve the present squabble between the Philippines and the United States, over "open skies"? If this policy is implemented, it will open Philippine skies to unlimited flights by US airliners but not the US skies to our own carriers.

The sugar-coated arguments for "open skies" are familiar. It will bring in planeloads of tourists. It will bring down air fares. It will transform the Philippines into the air transport hub of Asia.

But does anyone really expect foreign tourists to fall all over each other to book a Philippine holiday just because more flight options are available? If so, why are US carriers not bringing in planeloads of tourists? Under the present RP-US air transport agreement, each side has rights to 36 weekly flights to and from the Philippines and the US mainland. But the United States is using only 14 flights a week. It still has 22 flights remaining unused. If there is a demand for more flights, why is it not using these? If it cannot use these remaining 22 flights, why is there a need for open skies or unlimited flights?

Open skies will give American carriers unchallenged domination over Philippine skies, in the same manner that the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) gives their naval forces access to our sea lanes and ports, and the Balikatan exercises give their ground troops de facto land basing rights.

All these have alarming implications to our national security. In the post-Sept. 11 world, all US interests, whether in the US homeland or overseas, have become prime targets for terrorist attack. Must we now invite revenge from the Bin Ladens of the world for our loyalty to the United States?

Opposition Rep. Constantino Jaraulla hit the nail on the head in a recent speech: "In the end, we Filipinos have to guard the Philippines. We cannot—and must not—rely on other people to guard us. You open the skies and you lay bare your entire territory to possible friends or foes. This is not the time to be careless. Above all else, we must put our national interest first."

Sleeping with the enemy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

CIVIL society has every reason to be pissed.

I myself was startled when I read someone saying here the other day that Blas Ople was an opportunist masquerading as a statesman. That may be so, but it is a monumental exercise in selective perception. Who's the real opportunist, the opposition figure who allows himself to be bought with a foreign affairs position, or the President who sells it to him in the first place? Ople did not solicit the position, not overtly anyway. It was Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who came knocking on his door, like an itinerant salesman armed with Tupperware.

"Sleeping with the enemy" is the term civil society groups have used to describe the President's recent (mis)deeds, and it is not far off the mark. It captures rightly the unscrupulous and lurid aspect of it. It wasn't just Ople Ms Macapagal resurrected, to use a verb the feminists are less likely to object to, it was the Punos, too, whom fortune, or their own folly, had helped to cut down to a stump. Turns out, to recycle an old Erap joke, it's not just Erap who is deeply concerned about the environment. *Mahal din ni Gloria ang mga Puno.*

Bert Romulo says that civil society groups have no "moral ascendancy" to lecture his boss on what's right and wrong. Well, I don't know what's happened to Romulo: he's a far cry now from the days when he railed against debt payments. I don't know if he really was responsible for knocking off Teofisto Guingona as foreign secretary, but it's clear he has decided to follow in the footsteps of another Romulo: Carlos P.

But he really shouldn't be waving words like "moral ascendancy" in people's faces. Those words are going to come back to haunt his boss like an avenging apparition. Cory at least can always claim to have been the heart and soul of the first Edsa. Ms Macapagal was neither part nor sole of the second.

Michael Defensor says many Cabinet members are veterans of Edsa II. They too fought Erap heart and soul. Maybe, but it must be asked what they fought Erap for. I remember writing something along these lines in late 2000 after seeing Ms Macapagal's minions, which included media people with unsavory reputations, invading the various anti-Erap groups. I suggested, not entirely facetiously, that everyone agree to not take a position in the ensuing government to show the loftiness of their cause. No one jumped at the suggestion. And before Erap's funereal barge could reach San Juan, everyone had set up tent in Malacañang to make sure they would not be absent when Gloria distributed her blessings.

People like Dinky Soliman I respect. They were the ones who were there long before Ms Macapagal was a glimmer of a shadow in the horizon. I remember meeting with Dinky several times during the days when the prospect of merely curbing Erap, not to speak of ousting him, was far dimmer than getting April Boy to stop singing. Dinky at least deserves to be there. Except that she, too, would go overboard with the peace bonds.

Which brings me to a crucial point. There is a sense in which Romulo is right too. Civil society groups should not be so righteous in their protestations. This is so because they weren't the first ones there. The first to expose and protest Erap's shenanigans were the activists and the press. Yes, the press. It was the press, along with the people's organizations, that fought off Erap's attempt to bury Marcos in Libingan ng mga Bayani—and would be there after that. That was the reason Erap targeted it for execution in 1999, shutting down the Manila Times and cutting off the INQUIRER's lifeblood in ads.

But far more than that, it's because civil society's righteousness should come back to haunt it, too, like a ghost. The term it uses is "sleeping with the enemy." That's exactly what it's been doing, too, sleeping with the enemy.

How else call its complete and utter silence in the face of Ms Macapagal's efforts to turn this country into a playground for the games the Pentagon likes to play? How else call its complete and utter silence in the face of Ms Macapagal's efforts to defeat Erap by doing another Erap, which is to win over the poor, the tired, the hungry masses yearning to breathe free, by holding the neon-lit torch of show biz?

Indeed, how else call civil society's lapsing into bovine contentment after being showered P1.4 billion in a government-backed bond float? "Peace bonds" is how they are called, which has guaranteed only the peace of civil society, the kind of peace it also used to call the peace of the dead. One defender actually called the way Code-NGO got it an act of genius, something comparable to Copernicus' discovery that the sun and not the earth was the center of the universe. What, floating a protected bond is a bright idea worthy of a Newtonian chair? Have we become so like Erap that we want to treat the public like fools? In fact, it inverts Copernicus' theory: It makes darkness, and not light, the center of the universe.

All this has been justified by the ridiculous notion that the more power is given to civil society, the more it can be civil to society. Not so, depends on how the power is acquired, or kept. That was the same argument civil society, or some civil society leaders, used to support Erap. Doing so would give civil society the space to do good. In fact, all it did was give them a reason to prop up Erap to the very end. You collaborate with what is wrong to do what is right, you won't do what is right, you will merely corroborate what is wrong. The history of humankind groans with examples.

The lesson is clear. There are no tyrants where there are no slaves. There are no whores where there are no customers.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@inquirer.com.ph

Jawo should fly to pa-in-law's 'political bedside'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE RACE for control of the Senate has intensified as the opening of Congress on July 22 approaches. Earlier the post of foreign secretary appeared certain to go to Sen. Blas Ople, who had been sounded out by two Palace emissaries. But he may have shut himself out by setting "conditions" for his acceptance. Ople's pussy-footing appears to have hardened the negative stand of civil society groups, where a more decisive acceptance while the iron was hot, so to speak, could have pre-empted that. All eyes are now on the search committee's move.

* * *

The news from the family of Sen. Ramon Revilla is that he will definitely be back in Manila before Congress opens. I spoke by phone to our chair at the Alay sa Kawal Foundation and Revilla's nephew, former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, who recently accompanied him to the United States for a check-up of his throat which has refused to heal after surgery. Ed says his brother, US-based throat specialist Dr. Marcelo Espiritu, had examined their uncle and found out that he didn't need surgery. All Revilla has to do is wait for it to heal which, at his age, doesn't come fast. The senator checked out of the Stanford University Hospital yesterday and flies to Los Angeles today for a happy reunion with the Bautista family in the United States, including son-in-law Robert Jaworski who has been keeping watch by his bedside.

Some citizens hope that in addition to being a dutiful son-in-law, Jawo would also be patriotic enough to swing to his father-in-law's political side, so that the crippling impasse in the Senate, which has had a negative impact on the people, would be broken. As I have argued here, with the House of Representatives securely in the hands of the administration coalition, it is to the country's best interest to swing to the coalition to get the President's legislative agenda moving.

* * *

Sen. Rene Cayetano recently wrote the President to stress that her directive to reduce the Napocor's power purchase adjustment (PPA) from P1.25 to 40 centavos has substantially reduced the burden of consumers. GMA's 10-point energy program and the renegotiation of some IPP contracts are likely to bring the PPA down some more. But Cayetano also pointed out that these measures would not reduce to the "barest minimum" the PPA or possibly eliminate it, something the public now demands, especially after the Senate coup aborted a more rational legislative remedy.

Cayetano has recommended mothballing several Napocor plants—about 11 in all—and utilizing instead the still-unutilized but already paid-for IPP capacity of 4,500 megawatts.He argues that mothballing would not adversely affect the privatization of the plants as this is temporary in character, but it would bring down Meralco's PPA since it would be able to utilize to full capacity its own power plants. He stressed that while there is a cost that the Napocor will bear during the time the plants are mothballed, this will be "substantially outweighed by the benefit of near-zero PPA." He told GMA that competent people in the energy sector have assured him that mothballing some Napocor plants is "doable" and may be implemented without waiting for any legislative measure. The Palace is studying this proposal.

* * *

Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez's colorful actress wife, is being pilloried by some sectors of the media because of a remark that she allegedly made that if her husband were to be removed from his post, she would "do a Montayre." The allusion is to Linda Montayre who has vigorously opposed the Macapagal administration after her husband was sacked from the PCSO due to misconduct. The accusation against Cecile, fueled by her husband's enemies, is unfair and I feel constrained to correct it because I was there when it happened. She never said she would "do a Montayre."

A couple of Saturdays ago, en route to pretaping our Sunday evening dzRH show that focuses on private-sector efforts to alleviate poverty, Cecile and I met at Speaker Jose de Venecia's residence. She had heard reports that her husband would be removed from his post, and she argued with JDV that removing Alvarez without also removing Peter Abaya, the assistant secretary whom he had charged before the Ombudsman for grave misconduct, would "confuse" the public about good governance. Abaya was accused of violating the Montreal Protocol to which the Philippines is a signatory, by allowing the over-importation of ozone-depleting substances in the year 2000, and of grave misconduct by giving the business to eight new firms, some of which were unlicensed. Cecile then cited to JDV the case of Montayre, who, she opined, has been attacking the government with little moral basis, whereas her own husband's case has firm moral moorings, as Jesuit Provincial Romeo Intengan noted in a statement.

* * *

All this time, with her characteristic flair, Cecile was quite impassioned, prompting me to crack to JDV that "I'm sure you'd rather have 10 Dilangalens to contend with, instead of one Cecile Alvarez." That elicited laughter from the Speaker and his wife Gina, but the "threat" was not aired. I know for a fact that Cecile would never lend her name to the cause of the opposition for I have seen how she has worn herself ragged in the past, marshalling grass-roots support for the Palace during various crises, such as during the May 1, 2001 and 2002 threats and when Mike Arroyo was under attack. This hardly surprises, though, for fewer couples have invested so much of themselves in strengthening the populist base of this administration. Few are more patriotic, too. It would be a pity if GMA allowed herself to be swayed by Secretary Alvarez's enemies.

Out of line

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT isn't easy to get as mild-mannered a person as Executive Secretary Bert Romulo all riled up. Especially since he is still technically recovering from a heart bypass. So the meeting between some members of the Macapagal Cabinet and some "civil society" types some days ago must have been really heated to force him to tell, according to an INQUIRER report, the President's "friends" to shut up and let them do their work—or words to that effect.

The meeting was ostensibly called by Malacañang to head off a rebellion in the ranks of the Edsa Dos forces, the motley collection of non-government organizations and individuals who see themselves as being largely responsible for bringing down Joseph Estrada and catapulting Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency. The threatened rebellion was sparked by reports that prominent Erap supporters and stalwarts of the anti-GMA and pro-Erap Edsa Tres had been approached as possible allies along with some members of the Macapagal Cabinet.

The sense of betrayal arises from the fact that the reported offers to the Puno brothers and to Jimmy Policarpio—former Erap Cabinet members and key strategists of the fallen former President at the height of the anti-Erap protests—were made even as a stalwart of Edsa Dos, Vice President Tito Guingona, was unceremoniously shown the door at the Department of Foreign Affairs due to "policy differences" with the President. Reports that Guingona was shoved out of the way to make way for Sen. Blas Ople have only added fuel to the fire.

Of course, the President and her officials have rushed to mollify the ill feelings and clarified that no formal offers or even the promise of a position in the administration were made. First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who confessed to having talked with the Puno brothers over rounds of golf, said the alleged offer was simply a generic "appeal" along the lines of "helping the President for the sake of the country." The President, though, has admitted that she was "considering" asking former Interior Secretary Ronnie Puno to help in her campaign against illegal drugs.

* * *

NO matter the provocation, though, I think the civil society representatives were out of line. The ultimate appointing power, after all, is the President, though for Cabinet-level appointments and positions in the diplomatic corps and military, appointees must survive the gauntlet of the Commission on Appointments.

Friends and allies of the President have every right to lobby for or against certain appointees. And no one is taking away their right to protest and make noises about appointees they don't approve of. But beyond making their views known, and hoping the ruckus they raise will have some effect, even the closest advisers and counselors of the President can do nothing beyond stew in their own juice.

"Politics is addition" is a truism in our local political tradition. People making U-turns in strategic alliances without skipping a beat or even waiting for a decent interval to pass is not an entirely unknown phenomenon here. Political operators, such as the Puno brothers and "JimPol," are particularly adept at such maneuvers. And don't tell me someone like Linda Montayre has stayed the one true loyal course.

Perhaps what the President's friends must accept, if they haven't yet, is that Ms Macapagal is a politician. And political capital is built from compromise and accommodation. By getting the Puno brothers and Policarpio into her fold, she accomplishes at least three things: first, it deprives the opposition of three experienced and canny strategists; second, it can be projected as a symbolic gesture of "reconciliation" for the good of the nation (always a convenient excuse for cooptation); and third, it promises to bring a measure of expertise and strategic thinking within the President's circle, for even with a wealth of counselors and advisers, she continues to make political blunders "left and right."

A word of caution, though. Political operators are not exactly known for unshakeable loyalty. Their devotion is about as fixed as a whirlwind. Remember Sen. Sonny Osmeña and brace for a sudden turnaround for the flimsiest of reasons.

* * *

IF the President is to be believed, Ople doesn't yet have a lock on the post of foreign secretary. Though she admits to having "thought aloud" in front of Ople some months back about his taking the DFA post, she now says she has constituted a search committee to widen the field of possible replacements for Guingona.

Among those being mentioned, though decidedly at this point still a dark horse in the race, is former Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani. "Manang Letty" comes uniquely qualified for the post, having served as foreign undersecretary and before then, having spent many years in the diplomatic service, both at the DFA and at the United Nations where she became one of the most senior women officials.

In a conversation, Manang Letty said it wasn't "just the women in the DFA" who had been talking to her about the possibility of her becoming the first woman foreign secretary. She had allowed her name to be floated, she said, "for the sake of the career service officials," many of whom feel the service has been much too politicized of late.

The vacuum created by Guingona's departure, as well as the "differences in policy" that allegedly led to the rift between the two top officials, makes this the ideal time "to discuss our foreign policy seriously," said Shahani. Of course, as a small nation, we will always be caught between contending powers, but it's high time we fixed our sights on such basic issues, said Shahani, as "who our friends are, what the possible threats against us are and what our national interests are."

More on cults

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

A NUMBER of readers who read the column piece on cults two weeks ago have expressed interest in the subject, so I am again using some excerpts from the book "Cults in Our Midst: The Hidden Menace in Our Everyday Lives" by Margaret Thaler Singer (with Janja Lalich, a former cult member).

Singer was on Discovery Channel's "Science Mysteries" recently to discuss the mysteries of the mind, among them ASC or altered state of consciousness. An expert on cults, Singer has counseled and interviewed some 3,000 former cult members. She sure would be interested in the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association headed by Ruben Ecleo Jr., the "divine master" of thousands and who is now in jail for parricide and drug possession. Ecleo's Dinagat Island shrine recently became a battle ground littered with the dead bodies of his followers.

Incidentally, this week's Time magazine features the rise of cults in Japan. While the deadly sect Aum Shinrikyo has slipped into the shadows, Time said the Japanese passion for strange cults is breeding new spiritual leaders touting bizarre belief systems. "Everybody else in this comfortably wealthy country seems lost. Things that matter—family, safety, community, aesthetics, money—appear to be slipping away, and the sense of alienation and desperation deepens...The collective yearning for someone—anyone—to check the country's spiritual drift is palpable."

Coincidentally, Time's cover story is about anxiety during these uncertain times. In the aftermath of Sept. 11, Time said millions are suffering from uncontrolled fear.

Cults offer or sell answers. In cults many people find what they believe are answers. The followers of Ecleo, many of whom are academically challenged seekers of the Promised Land here and beyond, are not very different from the gullible rich, bored and lonely who want spiritual titillation that would further set them apart.

Singer says that neither Judaism nor Christianity as known in the Western world makes use of the types of experiential exercises common in Eastern religions such as mantra meditation, spin dancing and other exotic rituals. The first wave of youth cults in the United States in the 1960s were based on Eastern experiential rituals. Soon many cults using thought-reform techniques used these to manipulate devotees.

Singer points out that literature from the East indicates that religious teachers (the genuine gurus) always supervised individual students to prevent harmful effects. This, Singer says, is lacking in modern-day movements. "Courses begin with inexpensive, seemingly innocuous procedures that have a certain appeal...These introductory programs are followed by offers of increasingly expensive, longer and more intense courses. Many groups refer to the later courses as intensives, and tout them as a means to help the neophyte achieve perfection faster."

Singer says cults clearly differ from such purely authoritarian groups as the military, some sects and communes and centuries-old religious orders. The latter, she says, though rigid and controlling, do not have a double agenda and are not manipulative or leader-centered. Seminaries may isolate seminarians for a while but they are told what to expect and are free to withdraw. Most religious orders, in fact, make their recruits undergo psychiatric evaluation. Lonely drifters and the emotionally unstable need not apply.

In the chapter on brainwashing and thought control, Singer lists down the conditions for these to happen: keep the person unaware that there is an agenda to control or change the person; control time and physical environment; create a sense of powerlessness, fear and dependency; suppress old behavior and attitudes; instill new behavior and attitudes; put forth a closed system of logic.

Psychiatrist Robert Lifton speaks of milieu control, loading the language (group jargon) and mystical manipulation (the leader implies that theirs is a chosen, select group with a higher purpose).

One interesting chapter in Singer's book deals with physiological and psychological persuasion techniques (repetitive motions, chanting, trance, meditation, etc.). The chapter on leaving the cults (including exit counseling) is also enlightening.

It's amazing how certain practices, when focused on long enough, can induce physiological and psychological changes in one's body and mind, like losing boundaries after many hours of meditation.

One meditation practitioner described his "unspeakable terror" when he lost track of time and "dissolved" with the air-conditioner and then was told "something good is happening" and he should meditate some more. He became listless after that and had to have professional help.

Often at public lectures, Singer is asked whether short-term meditation is ever beneficial. Singer's answer: "If without surrendering your life to a cult, you sit and do one of the two traditional methods of meditation, yes...Through the ages, the first method, empty-minded mantra meditation based on the Hindu tradition, has been useful to many people. The second method, reflective meditation, comes from the Judeo-Christian tradition. Here you sit and reflect as your way of focusing, and this too has brought moments of peace to thousands."

Meditation, in itself, says Singer, is not good or bad. "But when a venal person wants to sell you courses and persuade you to turn over your life to him, you must beware..."

Herbert Benson, author of "The Relaxation Response," says meditation does not have to be costly and you don't have to buy a mantra. And may I add, meditation should make one relax, happy and at peace, especially if it becomes a very simple prayer.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Outpouring

YOUNG BLOOD

Alma M. Gasang

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

HAPPINESS requires a lot of selfishness. I realized this while watching the heavy rain one afternoon. As I once told a friend, I love the rain but I have mixed feelings about it.

I love it for myself. I love the feeling of cozy solitude that it gives me. I love to frolick in its steady downpour. I love it for the happy memories of going back inside the familiar shelter of our house after shivering in the cold when our playing was over. And I love it for the brief sessions of amateurish painting in cheap water colors of the transformed trees I saw outside our window as I listened to its rhythmic pitter-patter on the roof. I love it for the knowledge that if I had an overwhelming sorrow, I could cry my heart out and no one would be the wiser. Best of all, the tumult, coldness and darkness outside calm and ease the tumult, coldness and darkness in my restless mind.

I love rain for the sake of the plants, trees and parched earth which must welcome its coming with gladness. I love how it falls on each leaf and nourishes the plants and cleanses everything in its path. I love how it makes the farmers thankful that it has come at last, that their crops can live and so can they.

I love it for its own sake; for the sheer beauty of droplets chasing each other, making delightful patterns of puddles and little rivers on the ground. I love its misty sprays as it flirts with the wind and gets blown in all directions. I love its musical pounding on the roof, alternately soft like soothing pianissimo notes on a violin and loud and startling like a thousand clashing cymbals as lightning and thunder join in.

But I think of the many weary travelers caught in its gentle tyranny. And the people who have errands that must be postponed since they cannot brave its cold torrent.

I think also of the people who scurry about for shelter for fear of being miserably drenched. I think of the victims of its excess: the farmers whose crops get flooded and destroyed; the poor people who huddle in their ramshackle houses or in their forlorn space on the sidewalk trying to keep warm; or those who must take out all the pots, pans and pails in the house to catch the deluge from their leaking roofs.

I think of the plight of the helpless birds who fly to the scanty protection of the trees and hop from branch to branch in an attempt to escape getting wet. I never thought of this before. I never knew until I witnessed two little birds desperately flying and hopping on the limbs of a tree to find better shelter. And I think of the other animals, the poor beings that cannot find shelter. Oh, how they shiver! I think of how often they must have endured this particular form of nature's unintentional mistreatment.

This is why I said what I said to my friend. For someone to be happy, one must forget other people for a while and concentrate on one's well-being and good fortune. One has to be briefly self-absorbed and think only of one's self. It is good to occasionally stand back and say, "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

If one does not do this, how can one bear to be happy amid the general misery and poverty? How can one smile and laugh in the face of continuing violence and injustice? How can one maintain good cheer when so many others seem to have made it their mission to increase their wealth by making everyone else poor; when so many lie, cheat and steal with impunity; when some people commit crimes and escape unpunished and repeat their crimes over and over again? Indeed, one sometimes has to be blind and deaf to the cares of the world like one has to forget sorrow to let the laughter in.

Looking around, I cannot help but notice that so many people have come to realize this far longer than I have. In fact, many have carried it to terrible excess, to a point where the state of the world has become deeply alarming and heartbreaking.

How have we come to this? When did we begin to believe and live the notion that pleasure is the highest good that must be had at all cost? When did we stop believing that truth, justice and kindness will ultimately bring us more and lasting happiness than power, wealth and prestige? True, we must all make an effort to be happy. Granted, each of us has the right to be happy. However, none of us has the right to be happy by making other people miserable.

Reading, watching and hearing about the many wrongs that remain to be righted while the culprits remain successful make me wonder about the rightness of goodness. I cannot quite buy the idea that goodness is its own reward when I was conditioned to believe that doing good on earth is a way to earn a place in heaven. Still, I think I know myself well enough to say that heaven or no heaven, I cannot be happy with baseness. But neither am I made of the stuff saints and martyrs are made of. Make of that what you will.

Could I be mistaken? Am I just being cynical and bitter? As badly as I want to be proven wrong, I doubt that anyone can refute what I have observed. One only has to glance at newspapers or turn on the radio to be rudely reminded of it.

But enough already. I will examine what I have written. When I started to write, I did not intend to be preachy. I am just as surprised at how this turned out as I'm sure my friends will be if they chance to read it (which may be regarded as proof that I myself have taken "self-absorption" to excess).

But I'll let this piece stand. For myself, if for no one else. This outpouring could do my psyche a wealth of good (without unreasonably worsening others', I hope). Then again, I'm a dreamer, and an idealistic optimist to boot. Being thus "handicapped," I can blithely hope that this will help reawaken the Socrates and the Mother Teresa in each of us. Hey, how about it?

Alma M. Gasang, 29, works with an insurance company in Bacolod.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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A call for civility in public life

I TAKE exception to your editorial on July 8, 2002, titled "Angara's dirty spade."

This administration will be remembered more for its moral ambiguity and timidity to take any moral position. Ultimately, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's record raises serious questions about her character.

Is it not questionable that the President can so shabbily treat her own Vice President, without even a minimum of civility? Is it not contrary to the interest of the people she swore to serve that she lobbied heavily for the passage of a law that legitimized and gave rise to the monster that is the Power Purchase Agreement burdening households around the country with electric bills they cannot afford to pay?

Is it not poor character on her part that she did not say a single word in support of Interior Secretary Joey Lina's drive against *jueteng*, until she was forced to do so days later? And is she not wrong in wanting to destroy the opposition—particularly in the Senate—and eroding the independence and integrity of important national institutions?

I take pride in my public record. All my political life I have joined only one party, Laban. That is still my party. I have never solicited nor received *jueteng* money and will never do so. I will not seek the support of gambling lords.

Questioning the President's bad actions is not being moralistic. It is simply a call for decency and civility in public life.

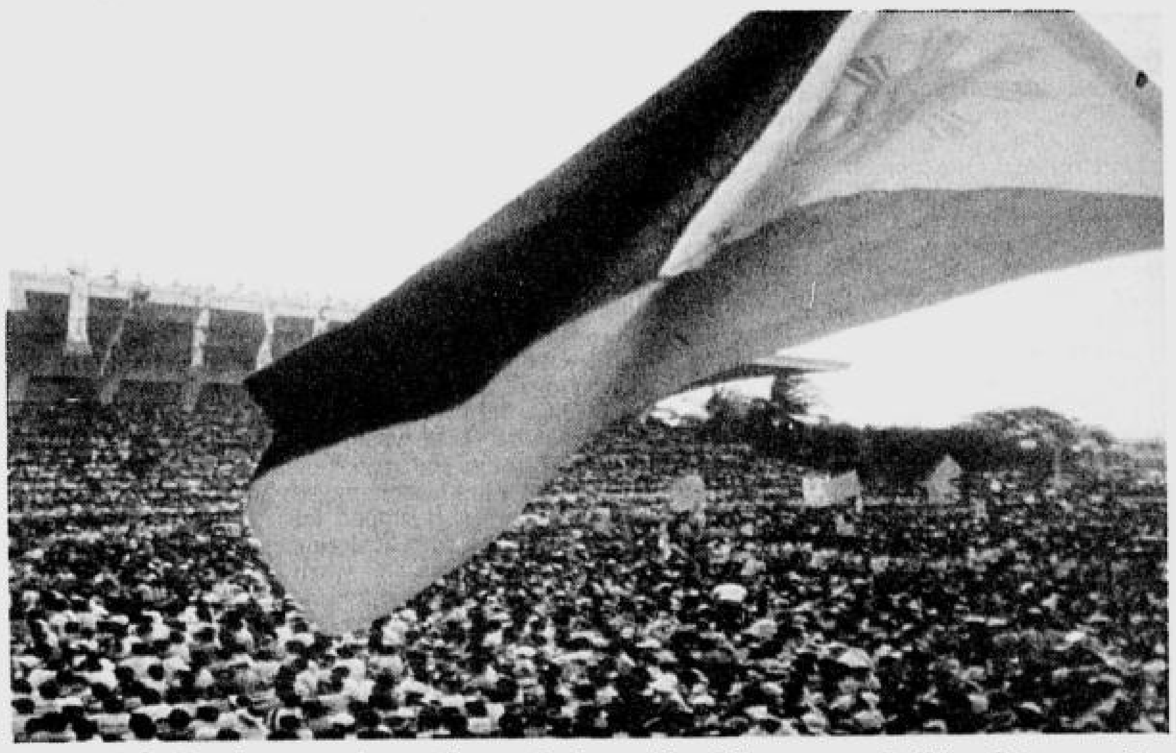
—SEN. EDGARDO J. ANGARA,
Senate, Rm. 504 GSIS Bldg.,
Financial Center, Roxas
Boulevard, Pasay City

Filipinos are second to none

I CAME across Johannes G. Jahns' letter to the editor last July 2, and I want to express my appreciation for the positive thoughts he had about the Philippines and its people at a time when many Filipinos themselves have given up.

I am a Filipino and proud to be one. Despite its many ills, societal and political, the Philippines is still the only country I've got.

I am an expatriate who has been working in Saudi Arabia for the last 20 years now. I am proud to say that as far as work ethics, job proficiency, ability to do new tasks with less training and propensity to produce quality results with less supervision are concerned, the Filipino can indeed hold his head up high. We are second to none.



Thus, it is simply ironic that while we Filipinos see ourselves in a less flattering light in our own country, in foreign shores people of many nationalities have nothing but praise for the Filipino workingman. Something is terribly wrong somewhere.

That a foreigner like Jahns could see more clearly than many Filipinos themselves—in his belief in our inherent goodness as a people—says a lot about our present state of affairs. It is something that we must all deeply reflect on.

—WILFREDO C. DEREQUITO,
fred0953@yahoo.com

Clarifications on 'Karen and Rachel' column

I WOULD like to correct an erroneous statement which has been sensationalized by the print media, particularly the column of Rina Jimenez-David last June 7, entitled "Karen and Rachel."

I would like to state the following facts regarding Jose Custodio:

1. Custodio has been dropped from the Roll of Masonry and ceased to be an active member at the time he was said to have committed that crime.

2. The Fraternal Organization of Masons, which is now more than 300 years old, abhors the despicable act narrated by the columnist. Being a fraternal and moral organization, this act if committed by an active member of the fraternity, is punishable by expulsion.

3. The "protection" that was given in this case was for the scholar Rachel Wertz Heim and for the Rotary Exchange Program. Rachel was provided with a refuge from a hostile environment.

I just pray that before such articles are written in the print media, extensive investigation on the circumstances surrounding the events should be made as this borders on unjustly maligning the person and character of the person, a member of the Masonic fraternity. I believe there has been a breach in the responsible reporting that your publication has been known for.

I hope this will correct the error that has been written before irreparable damage has been committed on my person and character. The Aportadera clan, whose name has been unjustly dragged into this matter, demands a public apology to correct the serious allegations made against the undersigned.

—RIZAL D. APORTADERA, M.D.,
Suite 601 Davao Doctors
Hospital, E. Quirino Ave., Davao
City

THE COLUMN on "Karen and Rachel" was based, in part, on the petition filed by prosecutor Jose Garcia, Jr. and private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua asking that Judge Wenceslao Ibabao of the Davao RTC Branch 33 inhibit himself from hearing the case of rape against Jose Custodio. The petition alleged that since Judge Ibabao is a Mason, as is Custodio, the Judge could not be fully impartial in his duty. The petition also mentioned a "previous instance" of what it called a conspiracy in that Dr. Aportadera, who took over guardianship of Rachel after she talked to a teacher about Custodio's alleged molestation attempt, was also a Mason.

Only Dr. Aportadera, I concede, can fully testify to his real motives for stepping into the situation between Custodio and Rachel. But a reading of Rachel's account will show she didn't expect Custodio to be told the reason for her premature transfer from his guardianship and that she was too intimidated by Custodio's power and influence to speak publicly about the incident until now.

—RINA JIMENEZ-DAVID

GSIS tried to collect from Maguindanao government

PLEASE allow us to clarify certain issues raised by Solita Collas-Monsod in her column, "Malversation in Maguindanao." (PDI, 6/29/02)

Monsod said the standard operating procedures (SOPs) being followed by the Government Service Insurance System "to say the least, is lousy SOP." We would like to point out, however, that the suspension of a member's loan privileges as a result of non-remittance of premiums is provided for under Section 39 of RA 8291, otherwise known as the GSIS Act of 1997, to wit:

"Sec. 3.9 Effects of Non-remittance of Contributions on the Eligibility to Benefits of Members. In case of non-remittance of contributions, the following rules shall apply:

"(a) All loan privileges of the member shall be suspended. . ."

Since RA 8291 is a law, we have to abide by it.

On Monsod's report that "other than sending the letters, the GSIS made no further move to actively collect the payments that were due to it," please be informed that we did exert efforts to collect the payment. Aside from sending demand letters, we went so far as to visit the Maguindanao Governor's Office and conduct briefings with the Provincial Development Council officials composed of municipal mayors, Sangguniang Panlalawigan members and some Regional Legislative Assembly officials. We also furnished the Office of the Ombudsman and the Department of Budget and Management copies of billings and reminders that were sent to the provincial government. In fact, the Ombudsman, as a rejoinder to our plea, called the attention of the Maguindanao provincial office.

—MAMOLE A. PANGANDAMAN,
Ceso IV, department manager III,
Government Service Insurance
System, Cotabato City

Who can surive on a P300 per diem?

IN BEHALF of the thousands of government employees throughout the country, I would like to bring to the attention of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) our plight whenever we are sent on official business outside of our stations.

Under the DBM's guidelines, government officials on official travel outside of their official stations are entitled to traveling allowances and a daily per diem of P300. The amount is enough if the official travel is just for a day or just to an adjacent municipality. But how about employees from Mindanao like us who are sent to the Visayas, to Manila or to any part of Luzon? While it is true that we are provided with transportation allowances, our per diem of P300 is barely enough to cover meal expenses, much less lodging especially in Metro Manila where it is difficult to find lodging below P500 a night.

As a tourism officer, I tried to have my actual hotel and accommodation expenses reimbursed on several occasions, but each time my request was disallowed. This is because the DBM's Government Accounting and Auditing Manual (GAAM) states that only chiefs of government agencies are allowed to reimburse actual expenses for hotel and accommodations. Rank and file employees feel that this particular provision is biased against us. Do we have to sleep in *bangketas* or bus stations since our meager per diem practically covers food allowances only? Or in case we find lodging at P300 a night, do we have to starve in the process? Not unless we have relatives in those places where we are sent can we make do with such an amount.

It is therefore but right that per diems be given on a case-to-case basis. The DBM should devise a scheme for this purpose. For example, per diems for travels to adjacent cities or municipalities should be allotted P300 while travel to far places like Mindanao, the Visayas, Manila and other places in Luzon should merit the grant of P1,000 in per diem.

Rank and file employees of the government should be accorded the same dignity as higher officials since we also represent our agency.

—BENJAMIN B. MALLORCA JR.,
031 Lapulapu St., Poblacion,
Kidapawan City

Gene talk

I DON'T smoke, and I drink moderately. I'm vegetarian most of the time (I will explain that in a while) and get a fair amount of exercise. In spite of all that, I've had problems with my blood pressure for several years now and, lately, with blood cholesterol levels. Nothing terribly serious but it can be distressing considering I'm not even 50 yet.

From the title of today's column, you can guess what I'm getting at. My problems are, to some extent, genetically based. I did smoke heavily many years ago and the exercise I get isn't quite regular but my mother also had a history of early heart disease.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"Ah," my mother declares, partly in jest, "good genes you credit to your father and bad genes to me. Your problem is stress and not eating meat. You need meat for the good cholesterol." (That explains why I'm vegetarian only when I'm out of my parents' home.)

Gene talk is quite common in our family, and I think it's a good thing. In this age of genetics, with scientists now cracking open our genetic code, we should be literate about the issues here. This includes parents engaging their children in frank talk about health problems that may run in the family.

When my sister and I were growing up, my father always insisted on a bleeding test before we had an operation, or a dental extraction. The reason was that he had a half-brother who died very young, literally bleeding to death after a dental extraction. That incident left him quite paranoid about bleeding disorders in the family.

Later, after I took up genetics in school, I realized my uncle probably had hemophilia. I tease my father about it's being a royal disease since it afflicted several branches of the European aristocracy. The disease is linked to the X chromosome, which means women are the carriers while the men are the ones afflicted. Queen Victoria had it and, through her daughters, farmed out the gene to the German and Russian royal families when the princesses married out.

Today, we're discovering more and more diseases and health problems have a genetic basis. This includes certain heart diseases, some forms of cancer, diabetes, asthma, Alzheimer disease. A genetic component is also suspected for certain mental disorders, particularly schizophrenia.

Scientists are very cautious about making conclusions on the genetic basis of diseases. It can be difficult to tease out the genetic component from other family influences. For example, some scientists suspect there's a strong genetic component for alcoholism and drug dependency but it may be difficult to pinpoint just how much of alcoholism comes from the genes and how much from the home or community environment (i.e., children imitating their elders with drinking and drug use).

Few of these genetic problems are caused by genes alone. For example, Down syndrome (or "mongoloidism," a term no longer used because of its racial connotations) is caused by a defect in one of the chromosomes but its incidence varies depending on the mother's age, with older women tending to run higher risks.

For many of the other diseases with a genetic component, lifestyle factors are important. People can say, "Look at Mike Tan, he doesn't have any fun but still has heart problems." What people don't realize is that Mike Tan would probably have had several heart attacks, sparing you of Pinoy Kasi, if he did "have fun" (which I do, incidentally).

Should we have massive genetic screening to determine people's risks? We do have a UP Institute of Human Genetics that takes care of the screening of the newborn for certain genetic diseases. This allows early detection of the disorders, which means parents can take precautions, or have the child treated. In the future, we can expect more tests to detect, for example, the breast cancer gene.

But some people may not want to know at all, arguing that they don't have the resources to treat the child. Others just don't want to know, period. Education and counseling are important to help individuals and families to decide about screening, and to decide on what to do after the screening. Some of the fears about finding out are based on a misinterpretation of medical facts. For example, just because your mother had breast cancer doesn't necessarily mean you will have it as well.

Others fear medical genetics because they still think in terms of "good genes" and "bad genes." We have to understand that certain genetic conditions emerged in the population because they were functional. People with G6PD deficiency, for example, have a higher level of protection against malaria compared with those who don't have the condition. It's not surprising that the condition is actually quite common in many parts of the world, including the Philippines. However, it is a disease which one should know about because people with G6PD deficiency tend to have problems with their red blood cells after they take certain medicines like aspirin and, ironically, anti-malarials.

The point is that with our genes, there may be trade-offs but there's no such thing as being "*lugi*" or short-changed. The same genes can be responsible for different conditions, different traits. Who knows? Maybe my mother's genes for heart problems came bundled with genes for empathy and patience, qualities important for teachers and writers.

Pick up a video of the movie "Gattaca," if you haven't seen it yet. It's a marvelous film, set in the "not too distant future," that says we are more than our genes. In that not too distant future, there are all kinds of medical tests that can be used on saliva, urine, blood, or body tissue to check on a person's predisposition to diseases. In one scene, a woman pulls out one strand of her hair and gives it to a man, telling him he's welcome to have it tested to get her genetic profile. He lets go of the hair and smiles, "The wind caught it."

There are times when gene talk should stay as talk.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Kilmer on the highway

HAVING bought my first car, and excited to drive it, I decided to take a three-day trip from the former American naval base in Subic all the way to Pagadian in Zamboanga del Sur. I crossed 19 provinces and drove 10 hours each day.

It was a real break from the daily punishment of Metro Manila roads. The entire stretch of the Pan Philippine highway is unbelievabably well maintained, with exception of the Samar stretch, which was like driving through hundreds of kilometers of corrugated roofing.

The scenery along the road was quiet relaxing. Thanks to the presence of the NPA in many areas, thick forests are spared from the loggers who have long devastated forests in Bulacan.

Though it was not the first time I passed through those roads and having grown quite familiar with the areas, one thing new I noticed were the phrases from an old Grade 3 poem "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer lining the whole stretch of the Pan-Philippine highway, put up by Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste's Luntiang Pilipinas.

While I deeply appreciate her good intentions when she had those metal pipes and reflectorized green placards built to direct the attention of passersby to the sentiments in the poem, I wonder how many real trees she could have planted if she bought tree seedlings instead of those pipes and reflectorized aluminum sheets, or how many children could have gone to school if she gave the money used for those bits of highway reading to schools and related undertakings so that children could understand Kilmer's message better.

One good thing I got from my recent long cross-country drive was to see again the beautiful side of our country and to draw clean breath free of the stench in our cities here. I am also thankful to Senator Legarda who enabled me to once again recite Kilmer's poem perfectly.

—MANUEL R. MENDOZA III, Sta.
Maria Dist., Pagadian City,
Zamboanga del Sur

A young woman's unbreakable spirit

I READ the article, "Artist's hands," in Youngblood last July 2. The writer simply identified herself as "B." Now I would like to tell her about the thoughts and feelings her story brough to me. I cried.

I am a mother with two teenage daughters. For a long time now, I've been praying that if it is God's will to give them life partners, these gentlemen would respect, love and take care of my children. I pray, too, that my children, in return, will be good life partners, respectful and caring to their partners. Above all, that they be the best mothers to their children.

When the time comes that "B" is able to talk to her mother about her experience with this horrible creature, I am sure that she, too, will be very, very proud of her, as I am, that she is able to stand tall and face life anew away from this subhuman and that he failed to break her spirit.

I will pray for "B" that she keep her strength. That she will not keep quiet about experiences such as what she has gone through. More importantly, that she will never, never allow anybody to treat her that way again. Remember, you are special, in my eyes, your parents' eyes, but most of all, in God's eyes. You deserve better.

—TERESA C. PALOMAR, 65
Kamachile Rd., Ayala Westgrove
Heights, Silang, Cavite

Missing Pasay streetlights

STREETLIGHTS should be immediately restored along Gil Puyat Avenue Extension and Taft Avenue underneath the LRT line from Menlo Street to Cartimar Market in Pasay City.

For several months now, these busy avenues have been very dark and quite dangerous. Electrical cables and bulbs put up by the city government have been repeatedly vandalized.

In a bustling city like Pasay, public safety and convenience should not be sacrificed. We therefore call the attention of Mayor Peewee Trinidad to this need for the immediate relighting of these avenues.

—PEDRO REFUERZO JR., 6737
Taylo St., Makati City

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Al-Qaida thriving, plans new attacks, spokespersons say

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Two al-Qaida spokespersons have released separate interviews in which they say Osama bin Laden's terrorist group is thriving and planning new attacks and assassinations.

"Al-Qaida will organize more attacks inside American territory and outside, at the moment we choose, at the place we choose and with the objectives that we want," al-Qaida's chief spokesperson, Kuwaiti-born Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, was quoted by the Algerian daily El Youm on Tuesday as saying.

In another purported al-Qaida statement, a Saudi-owned satellite television broadcast audio taped comments by an al-Qaida spokesman, described as Abu Laith from Libya, saying the terror group is "preparing for a coming period . . . of guerrilla war."

"We have started changing the war to attacks and assassinations, and we have succeeded in that with God's help," Abu Laith said without elaborating in the interview, excerpts of which were broadcast by the Middle East Broadcast Corp during its midnight news bulletin.

There was no way to verify the authenticity of both men's statements.

The editor-in-chief of El Youm, an Arabic language daily, said the interview it published was conducted on Sunday via two intermediaries.

Editor H'Mida Ayachi said El Youm formulated questions that were faxed to an intermediary. A second intermediary asked the questions. He would not say where the interview took place.

MBC Television said it received the Abu Laith tape from Al-Sahab Institution for Media Production, a group credited with earlier al-Qaida statements that appeared on web sites and with the so-called farewell video of Ahmed Ibrahim A. Alhaznawi, a Sept. 11 hijacker.

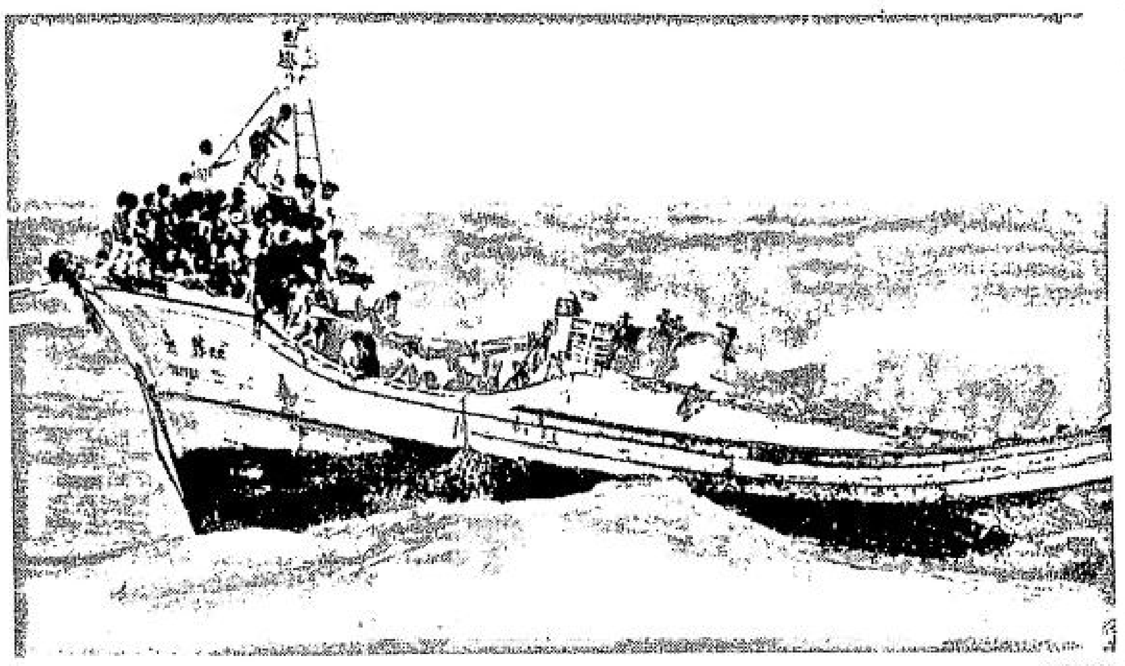
MBC executives and employees were not immediately available for comment. It was unclear where or when the tape was made or how it was delivered to the station.

US officials said two weeks ago that a recent audio recording by Abu Ghaith appeared to be legitimate. Government analysts matched the sound of his voice to previous recordings. In that message, released as an audio file on Islamic web sites, Abu Ghaith said Bin Laden and his deputy were still alive.

The Algerian paper on Tuesday quoted Abu Ghaith as saying: "Al-Qaida still maintains its military, security, economic and informational structures."

Abu Laith said in his TV-aired interview that Bin Laden, his lieutenant, Egyptian Ayman al-Zawahri, and Mullah Omar, the leader of Afghanistan's previous Taliban rulers, were alive and well.

The United States holds Bin Laden and his al-Qaida network responsible for the Sept. 11 terror attacks. American-led forces launched retaliatory strikes on Afghanistan in October, where the Taliban had harbored al-Qaida. ***AP***



REUTERS

PERIL AT SEA

Dozens of mainland Chinese fishermen are crammed on a burning fishing boat off southern Kaohsiung City on July 9. Helicopters from Taiwan rescued more than 100 fishermen after the boat caught fire and lost power. The boat is one of many "floating hotels" housing mainland fishermen working for Taiwanese fishing boats.

Bin Laden, Omar 'in good health'

DUBAI—The satellite television network Middle East Broadcasting Center (MBC) late Tuesday broadcast an audiotape from what it says is a top al-Qaida official reaffirming that Osama bin Laden and deposed Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar are "in good health."

"I want to reassure those impassioned with the jihad that . . . Sheikh Osama bin Laden, Mullah Omar and the symbols of jihad, including Ayman al-Zawahiri and Sheikh Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, are in good health," said Abu Laith Allibi in the broadcast, which MBC said was made several weeks ago.

Ayman al-Zawahiri is considered the number two in the al-Qaida network, whose spokesman is Sulaiman Abu Ghaith.

"I want also to reassure the Mujahedin about the fact that Mullah Omar has been able to assemble the Mujahedin who have been scattered and who are in the process of regrouping," the broadcast said.

Abu Laith Allibi also gives details of a battle several weeks ago in Afghanistan between US troops and al-Qaida fighters.

The entire recording is also carried by Islamist Internet sites, MBC said.

Abu Laith Allibi is a Libyan Islamist who joined the Afghan Mujahedin, or holy warriors, in the 1980s to fight the Soviet occupation. He is known for his expertise in bomb making and in guerrilla warfare. ***AFP***

New Yorkers debate over what should stand on World Trade Center void

By Grant McCool

NEW YORK—New York's past is full of autocratic developers, but the emotional debate over what replaces the World Trade Center complex destroyed in the Sept. 11 attacks has become one of the most democratic urban projects in history.

Everyone agrees that a memorial at the site will honor the 2,823 civilians and rescuers who were killed when two hijacked passenger planes caused the catastrophic collapse of the 110-storey twin towers, but not on what form it should take or how large it should be.

The site, now a huge, gaping hole eight stories deep after ironworkers, firefighters and tradesmen of every craft removed nearly 2 million tons of wreckage of New York's most visible skyscrapers in just nine months, is considered hallowed ground by families of 1,700 people whose bodies or remains were never found.

Victims' families groups, elected officials, real estate developers, state and city agencies and others with conflicting interests are vying to have their ideas included in six plans to be made public later this month. By September, the number of plans will be reduced to three and a final plan is to be selected by the end of 2002.

"This will be a very distinctive part of the city when it is completed," said former diplomat and Wall Street financier John Whitehead, who was appointed chairman of the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. to lead the planning. He said the LMDC hoped it "will be beautiful for the next 100 years or more."

On July 20 and 22, thousands are expected to attend public meetings entitled "Listening to the City, Remember and Rebuild" to discuss proposals for reconstructing the 16-acre (6.4-hectare) site and surrounding buildings and streets on the southern tip of Manhattan—a total area equivalent to 35 square blocks.

The site quickly became known as "ground zero" in the US war on terrorism and there has been a temptation among some New Yorkers to challenge the terrorists by proposing new buildings as tall as the original skyscrapers.

But Whitehead and others involved in the planning believe that is not viable.

"The safety issues are a concern, even if you had the top 40 floors empty it could still be a target," said Monica Iken, who lost her bond broker husband, Michael, and founded September's Mission families group. "The statement we need to make is to build a beautiful memorial in honor of the lives lost."

Iken, who advises the LMDC, said she would like to see a green memorial park incorporated into whatever is decided for the site, a place "no matter where you go on the 16 acres, you'll always know the events of September 11th."

New Yorkers have painfully grappled with the conflicting needs of mass grieving—epitomized by a series of emotional ceremonies at "ground zero"—and marking footprints for the future.

The attacks by Islamic militants traumatized the city and emotions run deep in any discussion about developing the site, a process that could take years. ***Reuters***

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Bush seeks tougher penalties for company fraud

NEW YORK—US President George W. Bush on Tuesday called for longer sentences for corporate fraud and a stronger watchdog agency to fight accounting scandals that have shaken investor confidence and threatened to become a political liability.

"My administration will do everything in our power to end the days of cooking the books, shading the truth and breaking our laws," Bush said in a speech outlining his corporate crackdown proposals to about 1,000 Wall Street leaders.

But the speech failed to inspire US stock markets, where indexes have sunk to five-year lows amid scandals at major US companies, including Enron and telecommunications company WorldCom Inc.

The Dow Jones industrial average weakened after the speech, falling 178.81 points, or 1.93 percent, to close at 9,096.09.

"What policy-makers won't bring to a quick end is the lack of confidence investors have in corporate USA. That has been damaged to the extent that it's going to take a long time to recover," said Jamie Lewin, market economist for British fund management group Gartmore Investment Management.

The measures proposed by Bush include doubling maximum prison terms for fraud and creating a government financial crimes "SWAT team" to crack down on individual abusers rather than overhauling the system of corporate regulation.

Bush's audience applauded only once during the speech, which White House spokesman Ari Fleischer had suggested might reflect a "tough" message that "corporate America might not want to hear but they need to hear."

"At this moment, America's greatest economic need is higher ethical standards," Bush said. "With strict enforcement and higher ethical standards, we must usher in a new era of integrity in corporate America."

The president is seeking to double to 10 years the maximum prison terms for mail and wire fraud charges, frequently used in cases of corporate fraud. A White House official acknowledged maximum sentences are infrequently imposed, but said the change would lead to harsher penalties.

Bush also would strengthen laws against document shredding and other forms of obstruction of justice—issues that came up in the collapse of energy trader Enron Corp.

Bush proposed a $100 million increase in the Securities and Exchange Commission's budget for fiscal 2003 to hire investigators and buy equipment. This is on top of $20 million he sought earlier this year, but is well below the $338 million increase pushed by members of both parties in Congress.

The proposals were tougher than steps Bush announced in March after the accounting scandal at Enron shook US stock markets and appeared to reflect a fear that voters could punish Bush and his Republican party in the Nov. 5 midterm elections. *Reuters*

Era of CEO as US 'superhero' ends

By Alan Elsner

WASHINGTON—The American corporate chief executive officer, who became a cultural icon in the 1990s while basking in media adulation and enjoying massive compensation packages, has been put on a new diet—humble pie.

As President George W. Bush went to Wall Street to call for "a new ethic of responsibility in America's corporate community," analysts were proclaiming the age of the CEO as superhero had ended, drowned in a welter of accounting scandals and high-profile bankruptcies.

"We're at a pivotal point. I don't think we will go back to the image of CEO as the ultimate hero and savior. We're looking at a much more sober view of corporate and CEO responsibility," said Leslie Gaines-Ross, chief knowledge and research officer for management consulting company Burson-Marstellar.

At the height of the stock market frenzy of the 1990s, some CEOs were seen as virtual demigods. Figures like WorldCom's Bernard Ebbers and Enron's Kenneth Lay seemed almost a breed apart, blessed with unique visionary powers.

The image seeped into the general culture. At a 1999 conference of the Romance Writers of America, author Tami Cowden described the ideal romantic hero of her genre as "the CEO of a major corporation, or maybe a prince. He might have been born to lead or perhaps he conquered his way to the top but either way, he's tough, decisive, goal-oriented."

That has changed fast. One recent cartoon in the financial publication, Grant's Interest Rate Observer, summed up the new mood. It showed two quarreling boys who had been separated by their mother. "He called me a CEO first," one boy explained in justification of his actions.

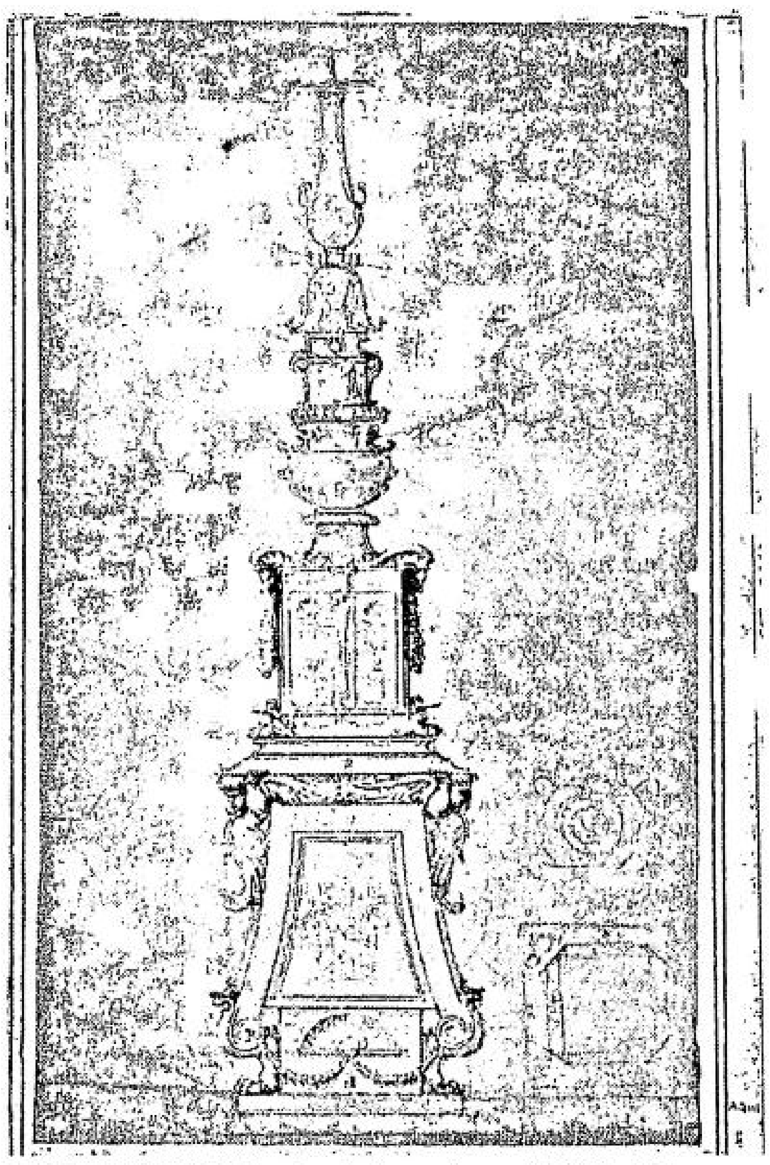
"I predict the buzz words of the next few years are going to be 'business ethics' and 'responsibility'. CEOs are going to have to become more humble to defuse the public rage that is building against them," said Dan Coughlin, president of the St. Louis-based Coughlin Company that provides coaching for executives to improve performance.

In recent years, CEOs reaped enormous rewards for their supposed unique gifts. In 1980, CEO compensation was 42 times that of the average worker. By 2000, it was 531 times that of the average ordinary working stiff.

For the decade leading up to this year, average wages increased 36 percent but for CEOs, compensation jumped by 340 percent. For 50 large companies, average CEO compensation was $10.46 million, according to a survey this year by Pearl Meyer & Partners consultants.

"One of the causes of the financial reporting problems we've been having is that CEOs became very competitive with each other, judging their success solely in terms of their compensation packages," said Tom Dunfee, vice dean of the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

"It was not as if they needed all that money or had any way of spending it. It wasn't as much greed as ego," said Dunfee, a member of his school's ethics faculty. *Reuters*



A MICHELANGELO drawing that may be worth $12 million, shown here in an undated photo, unearthed in what used to be a maid's room. REUTERS

Michelangelo drawing found at NY museum

WASHINGTON—A Michelangelo drawing that may be worth $12 million was unearthed among sketches of Renaissance lighting fixtures in what used to be a New York maid's room, museum officials said on Tuesday.

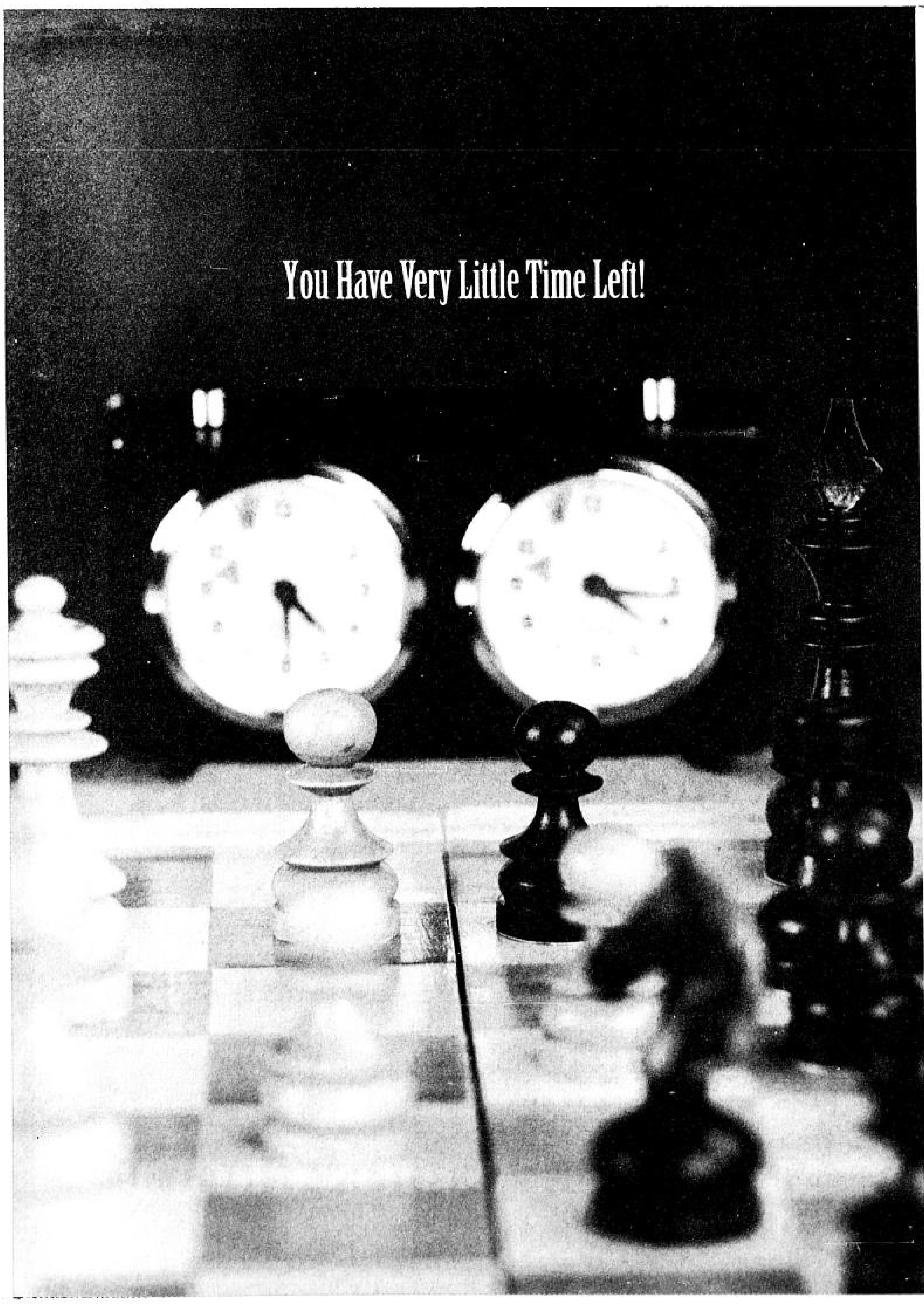
The unsigned drawing is a design for a seven-branched candelabrum—some call it a menorah—done in black chalk, brush and brown wash on cream-colored paper in the mid-1500s, according to officials at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum in New York City.

The candelabrum's arms are only inferred, but the sketch clearly shows where they should go, said Sarah Lawrence, the museum's expert on the Italian Renaissance decorative arts.

Such a discovery occurs "once in a museum's lifetime," Cooper-Hewitt Director Paul Thompson said in a telephone interview. "It's the stuff of children's story books."

The drawing was plucked from a box of sketches of lighting fixture designs by unknown artists in the museum's Drawings and Prints Department, on the fourth floor of the building in what used to be a maid's room, Thompson said.

The museum, part of the Washington-based Smithsonian Institution, purchased the drawing within a group of five goldsmith drawings in 1942, for $60. *Reuters*



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US holds Iraqi session on 'transitional justice' after ouster of Saddam

WASHINGTON—The United States brought opponents of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein together at the State Department on Tuesday to discuss "transitional justice" after the overthrow of Saddam.

But at least two leading figures stayed away from the two-day meeting, complaining bitterly the Bush administration refused to give a commitment to support democracy in any future government and charging the State Department with playing political games with rival Iraqi opposition factions.

The session, attended by about 20 Iraqi jurists in exile, is the first in a series of seminars the State Department is organizing in parallel with bellicose rhetoric by US leaders on the need to get rid of the Iraqi leader.

President George W. Bush said on Monday the United States would use all tools at its disposal to carry out its goal of ousting Saddam. But US officials say Bush does not yet have a military campaign plan on his desk.

The State Department organized the seminars after members of Congress blocked its attempt to arrange a more ambitious conference in Europe separate from the main umbrella opposition group, the Iraqi National Congress.

The INC, meanwhile, is backing a meeting of former Iraqi military officers in London this week, without US funding.

Feuding between the INC and the State Department, largely over opposition leader Ahmed Chalabi, has repeatedly thwarted US efforts to develop a coherent policy for overthrowing Saddam and installing a new government.

Salem Chalabi, a London-based lawyer and a nephew of Ahmed Chalabi, said he decided not to attend the Washington meeting because he felt the State Department would be willing to accept any new government in Iraq, even a military regime.

Another absentee, noted author Kanan Makiya, said: "I deliberately didn't come. There is a frightening unwillingness to commit to a radical change of regime." Makiya, under the pseudonym Samir al-Khalil, wrote Republic of Fear, the classic study of Iraqi Baathist repression. *Reuters*

A BOY dressed as a traditional Zulu warrior attends the launching ceremony of the African Union (AU) at the ABSA stadium in Durban July 9. Africa threw a birthday party for its new African Union on Tuesday, celebrating the traditional as well as the modern with Zulu warriors, Senegalese soccer stars and nationalist hero Nelson Mandela. REUTERS

New union to tackle Africa woes

DURBAN, South Africa—Africa's new political union begins the task of healing a continent ravaged by war and poverty on Wednesday, determined not to fall prey to the infighting and financial woes that plagued its predecessor.

"Time has come for Africa to take her rightful place in global affairs," South African President Thabo Mbeki said on Tuesday at the launch of the African Union, successor body to the long ineffectual Organization of African Unity.

"Time has come to end the marginalization of Africa. We call on the rest of the world to work with us as partners."

About 40 presidents and monarchs were in the port city of Durban to launch the AU with Mbeki as chairman for its first year.

There was virtually no mention in keynote speeches of the AIDS pandemic ravaging the continent, the food crisis gripping southern Africa or the political tension in Zimbabwe.

The AU's launch was far from smooth. Libya's maverick leader Muammar Gaddafi grabbed center stage with a trademark anti-Western outburst and confusion reigned about where and when the 53-nation African Union would hold its next summit.

Mbeki called a special or "extraordinary" AU summit to debate radical amendments to the AU's founding charter proposed in Durban by Gaddafi, known at home as "The Guide."

South African officials said there was broad support for Mbeki's move to convene an interim meeting on the Libyan amendments and other unfinished business before the AU's next planned summit in Mozambique in 12 months' time.

"That has been sorted out. It will be held within six months," Mbeki's spokesman said.

But a summit communique on Tuesday night by the OAU/AU secretariat made no mention of the meeting.

Gaddafi wants Africa to be a single state with one army and believes the serving AU chairman, Mbeki, should move to the body's headquarters in Ethiopia.

His ideas were likely to be ridiculed in Western capitals. *Reuters*

Probe: Poles committed 1941 pogrom

BIALYSTOK, Poland—A probe into a World War II pogrom in the Polish town of Jedwabne found on Tuesday that it was a local mob—and not occupying German forces—who massacred hundreds of Jews.

But war crimes prosecutors said that, after an investigation lasting nearly two years, they had not been able to gather enough evidence to file new charges against any of the killers who may still be alive.

A band of 40 men, armed with sticks, rounded up local Jews in the town square on July 10, 1941, killing some and driving others into a barn and burning it down, Radoslaw Ignatiew of the Institute for National Remembrance told a news conference.

"The role of Poles in this criminal act was decisive," he said. But, he added, Nazi troops who advanced into the area after Hitler attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941 probably incited the killings.

"It can be concluded that the murder in Jedwabne was done with German inspiration. The presence of German gendarmes, even as passive bystanders, is equivalent to their consent," he said.

The probe confirmed the central findings of emigre historian Jan Gross's book "Neighbors," which challenged an official version blaming Nazi forces alone which outlasted the communist regime that concocted it. *Reuters*

UNDATED file photo of veteran screen actor Rod Steiger, who won an Academy Award for his role as a bigoted small-town sheriff in the 1967 film "In the Heat of the Night." REUTERS

US movie star Rod Steiger, 77

LOS ANGELES—Movie star Rod Steiger, whose career peaked in the 1960s with his Oscar-winning role as a racist southern US police chief in "In the Heat of the Night," died on Tuesday at the age of 77.

Steiger became a household name when he won the Academy Award as best actor for his role in the intense and racially charged 1967 film. He died in a Los Angeles area hospital, his publicist said.

The burly actor was born on New York's Long Island in April 1925. He died at 9:00 am of kidney failure and pneumonia after being admitted earlier for gall bladder surgery, publicist Lori De Waal said.

Steiger made more than 100 movies, including "On the Waterfront" (1954) in which he played Marlon Brando's tough brother, the musical "Oklahoma!" (1955), a war film, "The Longest Day" (1962) and "Lucky Luciano" (1974).

In a career that spanned almost 60 years, the devoted method actor played a remarkable variety of characters, even taking on challenging new roles after winning acting's ultimate tribute, the Oscar.

"He was one of the most distinctive actors you would ever see on a screen but also at the same time one of the most versatile," said Glenn Kennny, chief film critic of Premier magazine.

His parts ranged from roles in some of history's most acclaimed films such as the 1960s Russian-set epic "Doctor Zhivago" as well as "Marty" to 1996's "Mars Attacks!" and a role on television detective series "Columbo." *AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, July 11, 2002
14th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8-9
Gospel: Mt 10:7-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "Go and proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers, and drive out demons. You received this as a gift, so give it as a gift. Do not carry any gold, silver or copper in your purses. Do not carry a traveler's bag, or an extra shirt, or sandals, or walking-stick: workers deserve their living.

When you come to a town or a village, look for a worthy person and stay there until you leave.

As you enter the house, wish it peace. If the people in the house deserve it, your peace will be on them; if they do not deserve it, your blessing will come back to you.

And if you are not welcomed and your words are not listened to, leave that house or that town and shake the dust off your feet. I assure you, it will go easier for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than it will for the people of that town."

Commentary

The Jewish Talmud states clearly that when entering the Temple of Jerusalem "Nobody should bring things, shoes, coin purse . . ." When Jesus sends his apostles to the whole world he tells them: "Do not carry any gold, silver or copper, nor a traveler's bag, or any extra shirt, or sandals or walking stick . . ." For Jesus, the whole world is the Temple of God and so all practices and business mentality should disappear from our heart when we become messengers of the gospel to the nations. When the missionary put his/her trust in titles and "practical" gears like laptop, cell-phone, credit card, nice clothes and perfume to be efficient and accepted, s/he seems to have everything but the true message and the credibility needed. If Jesus has sent us, we must do the mission in the way he wanted.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Entry in official records is an exception to the hearsay rule; requisites for admissibility—The hearsay rule is based upon serious concerns about the trustworthiness and reliability of hearsay evidence inasmuch as such evidence are not given under oath or solemn affirmation and, more importantly, have not been subjected to cross-examination by opposing counsel to test the perception, memory, veracity and articulateness of the out-of-court declarant or actor upon whose reliability on which the worth of the out-of-court statement depends. There are exceptions to the hearsay rule, among which are entries in official records. To be admissible in evidence, however, 3 requisites must concur, to wit: (a) that the entry was made before a public officer, or by another person specially enjoined by law to do so; (b) that it was made by the public officer in the performance of his duties, or by such other person in the performance of a duty specially enjoined by law; and (c) that the public officer or other person had sufficient knowledge of the facts by him state, which must have been acquired by him personally or through official information. [Citations omitted.] [Justice De Leon, Jr., Country Bankers Insurance Corporation v. Lianga Bay and Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Inc., G.R. No. 136914, January 25, 2002]

Digest by R.B. Vera

A lifetime of bliss is worth the same as short-lived luxury

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- Concrete curbs and gutters
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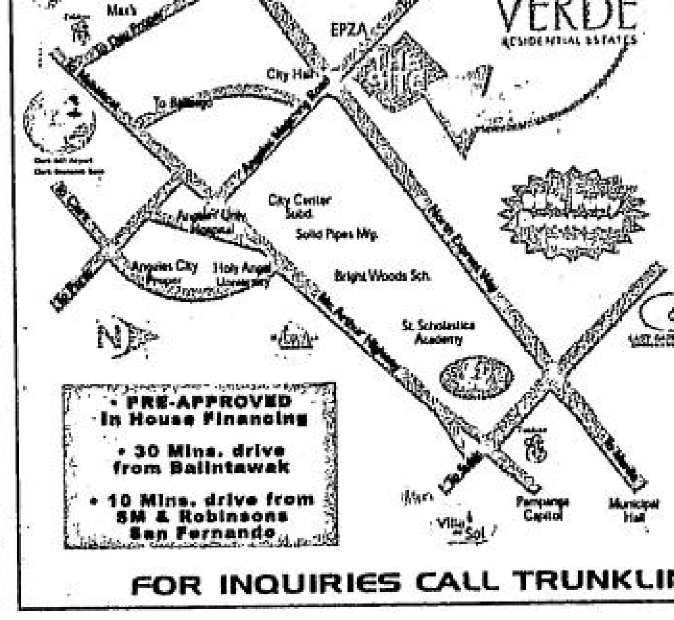
- Childrens playground & picnic ground
- 10 mins drive to Clark Economic & Leisure Zone
- 5 mins. drive to Angeles City Hall
- Jogging lanes
- Street lightings
- Concrete electric posts



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Army warns federalism backer against resorting to violence

COTABATO CITY—A military officer cautioned armed members of the Indigenous People's Federal Army (IPFA) not to sow havoc and instead continue with their political struggle through peaceful means.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, was reacting to a press conference held on Sunday in South Upi, Maguindanao, where IPFA spokesperson "Fedreb" surfaced with some 1,000 armed followers.

"Their presence had caused fear among Upi residents and some folks in nearby towns of Maguindanao," Ando said.

The police and military had blamed the IPFA for a series of bomb scares a few months ago in Metro Manila and in Mindanao.

A day after the July 7 press conference, a Mercury Drug branch here was the center of a bomb scare when its pharmacists and other personnel abandoned the store's premises after an unidentified man phoned in to report that an explosive had been planted in the building.

Anna Basco, Mercury Drug branch manager, said prior to the caller's warning, two unidentified men in police uniforms alerted the establishment's security guard about receiving information that a bomb had been planted at the store.

Police deployed to the area found no bomb. Police investigators also could not say if IPFA was behind the bomb scare.

IPFA has urged the Macapagal administration to initiate moves in changing the existing form of government to a federal system where Christians, Muslims and lumads will have their individual federal states to govern.

Fedreb warned that a "social volcano" may erupt anytime unless the national government acts with dispatch.

"We the indigenous peoples can no longer bear with this man-made hardship. We have been driven to the mountains (because) the government grabbed our ancestral domain," said an IPFA press statement.

"We will not allow ourselves to become an endangered species of the world," the statement added.

Ando said IPFA members were free to express their sentiments and air harsh criticisms against the state and its leaders but they should not resort to the use of force or violent acts.

The Army spokesperson has assured Mindanaoans that the military is ready to quell any move by the IPFA to sow terror that would undermine peace and security in Maguindanao and elsewhere.

Asked about IPFA's military might, Ando said, intelligence reports showed the group was growing as he confirmed the group's recruitment and training of mostly members of lumad communities. *Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western sections of Northern and Central Luzon will experience monsoon rains. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 25°
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	HI 20°	Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 24°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	HI 29°	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29°	Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31°	Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 35°	Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 31°	Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/11/02

ROUNDUP

Suspected killer's demand

LUPON, Davao Oriental—Two suspects in the killing of this town's treasurer in February this year have demanded P10,000 each in exchange for their surrender. Mirasol Tanzo, wife of slain Lupon town treasurer Maximo Tanzo, told the INQUIRER that her husband's killers had sent surrender feelers to Supt. Catalino Cuy, provincial police chief. But the suspects also set a condition for their surrender. The suspects allegedly said they will give the money to their families. She said the surrender feelers came out after police killed one of the suspected killers in a shootout here. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Teachers vs extortion

CARAGA, Davao Oriental—Hundreds of public elementary and high school teachers here are protesting alleged extortion by New people's Army rebels who allegedly demanded P6,000 from each of the teachers as quarterly revolutionary tax. Supt. Catalino Cuy, provincial police chief, told the INQUIRER that the teachers here have sent him a letter asking for help to stop the rebels from victimizing them. "Some of them (teachers) were really forced to pay for fear of their lives," Cuy said. But the NPA's Antonio Nerio Antao Command based in this town denied the accusation, saying some people were using their group's name for extortion. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Armed men seize soldier

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—An Army sergeant was seized at dawn Sunday by armed men, who asked his officers for 100 bullets for M-14 and M-16 rifles for his release. Reports here said Staff Sgt. Conrado Albano of the Army station in Nueva Ecija was on a Metro Manila-bound bus on the North Luzon expressway when he was seized by the armed men. Albano was reportedly taken to the suspects' safehouse, according to a text message received by his officer, Maj. Isidro de Guzman. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

New bishop

THE MOST Rev. Buenaventura M. Famadico, D.D., titular Bishop of Urusi, yesterday assumed his new post as the third auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Lipa and pastor of the parish of St. Martin of Tours (Taal). The Most Rev. Gaudencio B. Rosales, D.D., Archbishop of Lipa, Batangas Gov. Hermilando I. Mandanas, Lipa City Vice Mayor Fernando Manguera, and the clergy and religious of the Archdiocese of Lipa led the faithful in welcoming the new bishop. Bishops and priests from other dioceses in the Ecclesiastical province of Lipa were also expected. The Pontifical Mass of Welcome held at the Metropolitan Cathedral of San Sebastian, Lipa City, and his installation rites as parish priest of Taal was held at the Basilica of St. Martin of Tours.

3 die in mishap

BAGUIO CITY—Three people were killed while 12 others were hurt when their mini-bus fell into a ravine in Mayoyao town in Ifugao on July 1, police said. Killed were Juliet Nayugao, 30, Nora Pinalgan, 13, and Debbieboy Nayugao, 2. The injured, including the bus driver identified as Geanie Bastian, were taken to the Mayoyao municipal hospital. Police said the bus fell about 8 a.m., shortly after it left the Mayoyao town proper. *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

3 NPA rebels yield

CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ, Isabela—Three suspected New People's Army rebels have surrendered to Army soldiers in Kalinga and Isabela last week. Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, 5th Infantry Division commander, identified the rebels as Wagsing Lumasok, 41, and Felix Barwog, 34, both of Lubuagan, Kalinga, and Tungkab Franco of Isabela. Lumasok and Barwog, members of the NPA's Kalinga party committee, also surrendered two Armalite rifles. They received P36,000 in exchange for their firearms under the Balik-Baril program. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Subic medical center

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority officials last week signed an agreement for the setting up of a medical center that will house a hospital, a wellness center, a research center and a medical and nursing college in this freeport. SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo said the facility will provide health services to expatriates, employees and residents of the freeport and neighboring communities. The proposed Subic Bay Medical Center will be the largest, most modern and complete medical facility in the area, Payumo said. *Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Napocor cuts off power in Camarines

DAET, Camarines Norte—The entire province of Camarines Norte has been in total darkness since 2:55 p.m. yesterday after the Camarines Norte Electric Cooperative failed to pay P35 million out of the P50 million overdue bills it owes the National Power Corp.

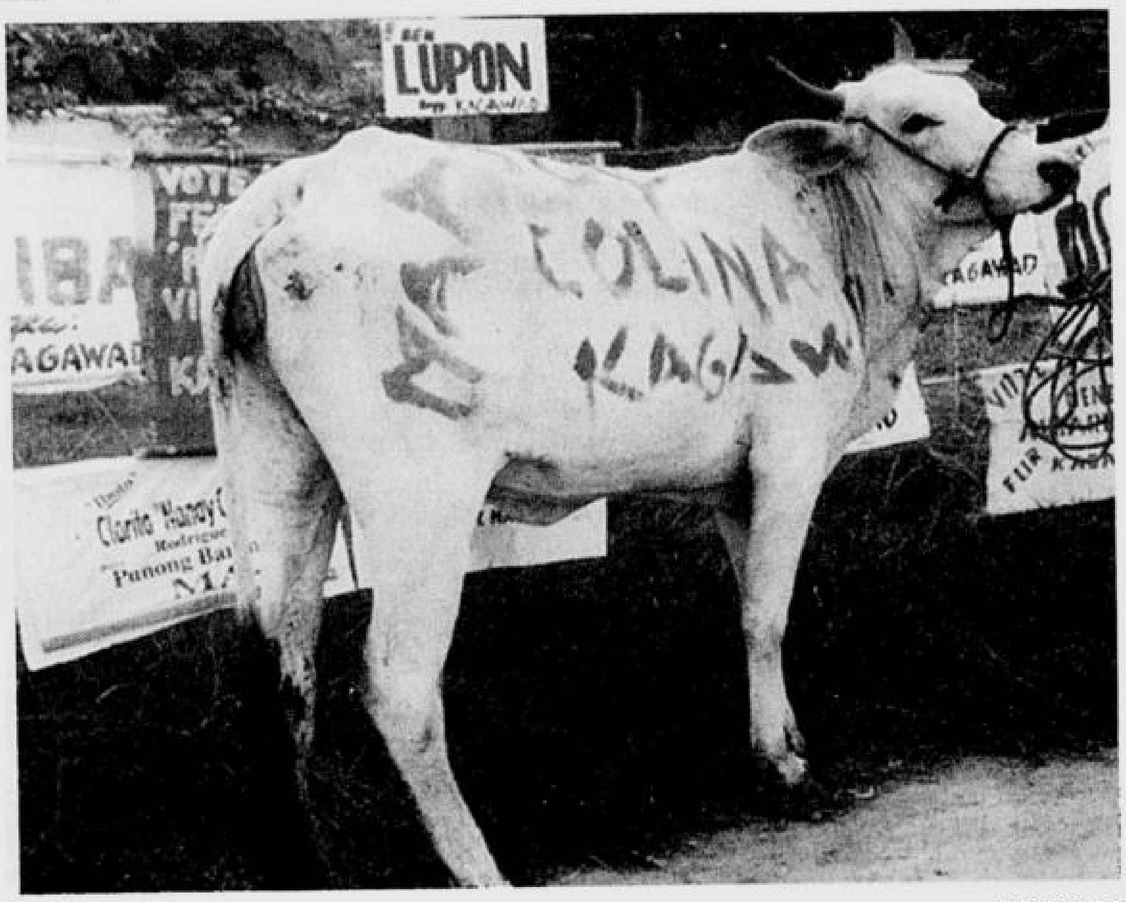
The Canoreco was able to pay only P4 million after two big power consumers—the Prime Chemical Co. and the Paracale Mining Corp.—did not make good their promise to pay a combined amount of P10 million.

The Napocor earlier gave notice to the Canoreco that it would cut power services to the cooperative if it fails to pay P50 million to the Napocor, which had already given the cooperative several deadline extensions.

The amount the Napocor was asking as of yesterday noon was only P35 million.

Canoreco officer-in-charge Leonida Z. Manalo, after being prodded by a municipal officer of Mercedes, Alberto Albia, already informed the Canoreco members about the possible power disconnection during the cooperative's 20th general assembly held on July 6.

Manalo even told the general assembly that Canoreco already had on hand P25 million, but it was still short of P25 million. *Bing Abaño, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



BING GONZALES

CAMPAIGN TRICK

Cheap campaign gimmickry has seeped into the villages with candidates for barangay positions resorting to the same campaign tricks that so-called trapos are known for. These include painting their names on this cow in Davao City.

Fear of Mt. Pinatubo lake collapse drives Aetas into fleeing villages

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Harboring fears that Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake has ruptured and triggered a rampage of lahar on Wednesday, some 300 Aeta families on the foothills of the volcano in Zambales have evacuated to higher grounds, their leader told the INQUIRER.

Calling by mobile phone, Chito Balintay, chair of the Pagkakaisa ng Aeta ng Pinatubo, said the leaders and elders of the tribe have seen high waves of thick lahar along the Bucao River in Botolan, Zambales, on Wednesday morning.

The artificial canal carved on the volcano's lowest rim, also known as the Maraunot trench, face Botolan, which is 40 km west of the volcano.

Balintay said the unusual lahar flows, which they had not observed in recent years, prompted the Aetas to believe that the wall of the lake had collapsed and that water had escaped on the heels of continuous monsoon rains since Friday and heavy downpour by typhoon "Gloria" since Sunday.

The 3-km wide lake, which formed after the June 1991 eruptions, held some 200 million cubic meters of water before Aeta workers, hired by the Department of Public Works and Highways, built a meter-wide canal to induce the release of water and lessen the pressure on the rim.

More than 40,000 residents in Botolan were ordered to go to higher grounds when the canal was opened.

But Ernesto Yabut, chief of the volcano monitoring group of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, ruled out a lake breakout.

Citing the report of a Phivolcs team that observed the lake last week, Yabut said there had been "no significant rise" in the level of the water.

"Water is draining slowly," he said.

Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, Phivolcs chief, said a breakout was not immediately expected because rock formations around the lake were stable.

Pedro Tercino, chief engineer of the DPWH Mount Pinatubo Rehabilitation Project Management Office, said that still has to be proven through soil testing, a work that had suffered delay for four months.

Citing safety reasons, the contractor declined to bring a drilling rig and several engineers to the summit of the 1,400-foot volcano.

The DPWH earlier announced plans to improve the canal through further diggings.

Punongbayan said a team was climbing the volcano on Wednesday to confirm the rupture.

Balintay said the evacuees fled from Barangays Poon Bato and Malomboy and Baquilan resettlement on Wednesday. *Tonette Orejas and Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Sandiganbayan suspends mayor for 90 days for graft

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Sandiganbayan has suspended for 90 days the mayor of a southern town in Leyte pending trial of the malversation charges filed against him.

But Mayor Leonardo Leria of MacArthur town was not in his office when representatives of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Leyte provincial government served the order on Monday morning.

Only the mayor's secretary, Rosa Rosales, received the suspension order about 8:10 a.m. served by Aida Laruda, DILG director in Leyte and acting Leyte provincial attorney Imelda Nartea.

Leria's suspension stemmed from the criminal case filed by the Commission on Audit office in Eastern Visayas against the mayor for alleged malversation of public funds in 1997.

The COA alleged that despite repeated demands, Leria failed to account for P178,118 in public funds.

The Ombudsman filed the cases on Aug. 26, 1999 before the Sandiganbayan. Leria posted P40,000 bail.

Aside from Leria, eight others were implicated in the cases including the municipal treasurer and auditor-in-charge. It was not known if they, too, were suspended. Their names were not listed in Leria's suspension order.

Last February, the Sandiganbayan's second division ordered the suspension of Leria after the anti-graft court denied his motion to stop his suspension.

Leria then filed a motion for reconsideration but this was also denied by the Sandiganbayan in its resolution dated May 20, 2002.

In his motion, Leria said the information in the case was not valid because there was denial of due process during the audit examination of the COA all the way to the alleged hasty filing of the complaint.

MacArthur town is located some 60 kilometers south of Tacloban.

100 Iloilo gov't execs join protests vs PPA

Manifesto signed by provincial officials calls for abolition of PPA, repeal of Epira

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Government officials here have joined activists and religious groups in opposing excessive electricity rates.

Around 100 provincial and municipal officials led by Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Sr. and Vice Gov. Roberto Armada yesterday signed a manifesto, calling for the abolition of the controversial power purchased adjustment (PPA) and the repeal of Republic Act 9136 or the Energy Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

Copies of the manifesto would be sent to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Congress and national agencies.

The signatories included three provincial board members, nine municipal mayors, four vice mayors and 25 town councilors from 14 municipalities.

They were participants to the inter-municipality conference at the Iloilo provincial capitol, spearheaded by the People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power of Iloilo) and the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

The conference was aimed at forming a broad movement against the PPA and the Epira.

The PPA is an automatic cost recovery mechanism set up by the National Power Corp. and distribution utilities to cover fluctuations in fuel prices, power costs, and foreign exchange rate.

The PPA is "unjust, morally unacceptable and an oppressive scheme," declared the manifesto.

"The adverse effect of the PPA traverses all levels of society whether rich or poor. The impact of the PPA is felt every day as we go about our lives, but most especially the poor," said Tupas.

The governor described it as "tragic" that the Macapagal administration realized "only now that 11 IPP (Independent Power Producers) contracts were grossly disadvantageous to the government, hence, warrant cancellation."

In the manifesto, the local officials urged President Macapagal to rescind the "onerous and anomalous" contracts entered into by the IPPs with the Napocor that were found to be defective by a study of an inter-agency committee led by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

"The government should exercise strong political will to prosecute and punish these IPPs and those involved in these contracts including high government officials," the manifesto said.

Guimaras mangoes ready to conquer US market

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Fresh mangoes from Guimaras are out to challenge Mexican mangoes that have dominated 90 percent of the 2.9 million fresh mango market in the United States.

Michael Woolsey, US agricultural attache to the Philippines, said the shipment of 200 to 400 boxes, or about 1,000 kilos, of mangoes to US, mainly California, in May and June this year generated excitement in Filipino-American communities that the fruit may soon eat into the market share of Mexican mangoes.

Woolsey met reporters here on Monday during the launch of "Made in the USA," a month-long exhibit and sale of American-made products hosted by the Iloilo Supermart chain of grocery stores.

Guimaras mangoes are now popular outside the Filipino-American market, said Woolsey.

Woolsey said Guimaras mangoes could easily win the US market because of its taste. For one, Guimaras mangoes, unlike the Mexican mangoes, are not fibrous, he said.

The Guimaras mangoes can enter all states in the US except Florida, which also grows mangoes.

Guimaras mangoes were approved for shipment to the US in May, after more than 10 years of preparing the fruit for exports.

Planter escapes rape trial

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

TANJAY CITY—The City Prosecutor's Office here Thursday dropped the abduction with rape charges filed against prominent sugar planter German Mendieta, but filed charges of abduction with multiple rape against Mendieta's employee Rufino Quiniquito and two others.

In his eight-page resolution, City Prosecutor Elson P. Bustamante said the victim failed to sufficiently identify Mendieta as the person who, along with two others, abducted and raped her on March 6, 2002.

The victim is a 16-year-old daughter of Mendieta's former employee, who filed a case against Mendieta for illegal dismissal. The case had recently been dismissed.

The victim narrated that she was abducted by a knife-wielding man with a drawn-down bonnet and forced into a white van, as she was walking in Barangay Tugas, Tanjay City, Negros Oriental at 11 a.m. She said she was immediately blindfolded with her hands hogtied behind her back.

As they were travelling in an unknown direction, the girl heard the driver talking on a cellular phone, saying, we are already on our way, "nyorito."

Third person

Upon reaching an unknown destination, where splashing waves could be heard, she sensed the presence of a third person who told her, "so . . . you are the daughter of Ronnie." In answer to the girl's query on why she was abducted, the third man allegedly replied, "because your father has embarrassed me before my business associates."

With this remark, the girl, still in her blindfold, told the man, "I know you are Carlos Mendieta." The girl said the man got angry and pulled her hair, saying, "you have no respect for me!" The girl said she was later undressed by the three men and tied to a bed, where they raped her. The girl said she was sure the first one who raped her was Mendieta because she felt his mustache and heard his voice.

After the rape, the girl said she pretended to be unconscious as the men untied her hands and dressed her. Then she lifted her blindfold to see one of the suspects whom she identified as Rufino Quinquito. She could not identify the other man.

The girl was later released by her abductors in Barangay Pondol, Amlan, with a warning by one of the men to "Tell your father to withdraw the case or else something bad will happen to both of you."

Fares so low you'd want to fly!

ORIGIN: MANILA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	DC9	0130	0240	P2,899	P2,569	P1,999	P1,849
	5J - 559	Daily	DC9	0500	0610			-	
	5J - 561	Daily	DC9	0700	0810			-	
	5J - 563	Daily	DC9	0900	1010			-	
	5J - 565	Daily	DC9	1100	1210			-	
	5J - 567	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			-	
	5J - 569	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			-	
	5J - 571	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			-	
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	DC9	0500	0640	P3,667	P3,239	P2,288	P2,288
	5J - 963	**Daily**	**B757***	**0930**	**1110**	P4,039	P3,839	P3,667	-
	5J - 965	Daily	DC9	1320	1500	P3,667	P3,239	-	P2,288
*Cebu Class Available	5J - 967	Daily	DC9	1600	1740			P2,288	
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	DC9	0510	0635	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699	P2,349
	5J - 383	Daily	DC9	0930	1055				
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	DC9	0610	0720	P2,899	P2,569	-	P1,999
	5J - 655	Daily	DC9	1210	1320			-	
	5J - 657	Daily	DC9	1410	1520			-	
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	DC9	0500	0600	P2,779	P2,449	P1,649	P1,599
	5J - 455	Daily	DC9	0955	1055			-	
	5J - 459	Daily	DC9	1600	1700			-	
BACOLOD	5J - 473	Daily	DC9	0510	0610	P2,779	P2,449	-	P1,799
	5J - 475	Daily	DC9	1000	1100			-	
	5J - 479	Daily	DC9	1650	1750			-	
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	DC9	0620	0750	P3,667	P3,239	P2,179	-
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	DC9	0530	0630	P2,539	P2,199	-	P1,799
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	DC9	1340	1450	P2,899	P2,569	P1,799	-
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	DC9	0900	0950	P2,899	P2,569	-	P1,999
BUTUAN	5J - 787	Daily	DC9	1030	1155	P3,645	P3,239	-	P2,349

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	DC9	0500	0610	P2,899	P2,569	P1,999	P1,849
	5J - 560	Daily	DC9	0700	0810			-	
	5J - 562	Daily	DC9	0900	1010			-	
	5J - 564	Daily	DC9	1100	1210			-	
	5J - 566	Daily	DC9	1300	1410			-	
	5J - 568	Daily	DC9	1500	1610			-	
	5J - 570	Daily	DC9	1700	1810			-	
	5J - 572	Daily	DC9	1900	2010			P1,999	
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	DC9	0800	0850	P2,589	P2,249	P1,945	P1,649
	5J - 597	Daily	DC9	1450	1540				
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	Fri/Sun	DC9	1005	1100	P2,649	P2,319	-	P1,969
	5J - 433	M/ W/Th/ Sat	DC9	1100	1155				
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	DC9	1750	1825	P2,099	P1,759	P1,495	P1,249
BACOLOD	5J - 126	Daily	DC9	0810	0840	P1,879	P1,539	P1,295	P 999
CLARK	5J - 588	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1100	1220	P2,995	P2,669	-	P2,199

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	DC9	0720	0900	P3,667	P3,239	P2,288	P2,288
	5J - 964	**Daily**	**B757***	**1210**	**1350**	P4,039	P3,839	P3,667	-
	5J - 966	Daily	DC9	1540	1720	P3,667	P3,239	-	-
*Cebu Class Available	5J - 968	Daily	DC9	1820	2000			P2,288	P2,288
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	DC9	0930	1020	P2,589	P2,249	P1,945	P1,649
	5J - 598	Daily	DC9	1620	1710				
ILOILO –via Cebu	5J - 598/164	Daily	DC9	1620	1825	P3,645	P3,195	P2,595	P2,199
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	M/T/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1010	1110	P2,649	P2,319	-	P2,049

ORIGIN: CLARK

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
CEBU	5J - 589	Tu/F/Sun	DC9	1300	1420	P2,995	P2,669	P2,199

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 474	Daily	DC9	0930	1030	P2,779	P2,449	-	P1,799
	5J - 476	Daily	DC9	1150	1250				
	5J - 480	Daily	DC9	1840	1940				
CEBU	5J - 125	Daily	DC9	0700	0730	P1,879	P1,539	P1,295	P 999

ORIGIN: BUTUAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAYFARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 788	Daily	DC9	1235	1400	P3,645	P3,239	P2,349

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	DC9	1135	1235	P2,779	P2,449	-	P1,599
	5J - 460	Daily	DC9	1740	1840			-	
	5J - 462	Daily	DC9	1905	2005			P1,649	
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	DC9	0640	0715	P2,099	P1,759	P1,495	P1,249
DAVAO –via Cebu	5J - 161/593	Daily	DC9	0640	0850	P3,645	P3,195	P2,595	P2,199

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	DC9	0800	0910	P2,899	P2,569	P1,999
	5J - 656	Daily	DC9	1400	1510			
	5J - 658	Daily	DC9	1600	1710			

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	DC9	1150	1320	P3,667	P3,239	P2,179	-
CEBU	5J - 432	Fri/ Sun	DC9	0830	0925	P2,649	P2,319	-	P1,969
	5J - 434	M/W/Th/Sat	DC9	1235	1330	-		-	
DAVAO	5J - 394	M/T/W/Th/Sat	DC9	0830	0930	P2,649	P2,319		P2,049

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAYFARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	DC9	0715	0840	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699	P2,349
	5J - 384	Daily	DC9	1135	1300				

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	DC9	0710	0810	P2,539	P2,199	P1,799

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAYFARES			
						NORMAL	VALUE	PROMOTIONAL	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	DC9	1530	1640	P2,899	P2,569	P1,799	-

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAYFARES		
						NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	DC9	1030	1120	P2,899	P2,569	P1,999

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

FROM	TO	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT,	ETD	ETA
MANILA	HONGKONG	5J - 110	Daily	B757	0700	0900
		5J - 118	Daily	B757	1640	1840
HONG KONG	MANILA	5J - 111	Daily	B757	1000	1200
		5J - 119	Daily	B757	1940	2140
MANILA	SEOUL	5J - 194	M/F/Sun	B757	1340	1840
		5J - 1944	Th	B757	1340	1840
SEOUL	MANILA	5J - 195	M/F/Sun	B757	1950	2250
		5J - 1955	Th	B757	1950	2250

NOTES:
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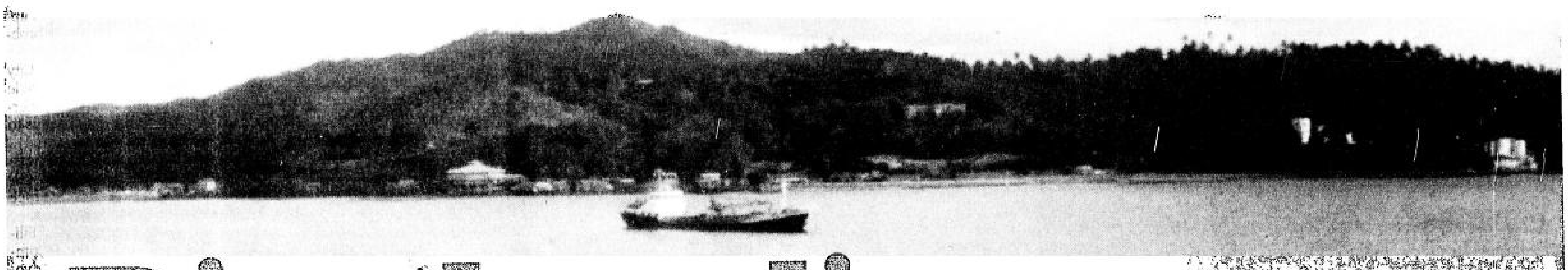


(Top photo) MASBATE is known for its low-lying hills and undeveloped but alluring beach coves.

PHOTOS BY AMADIS MA. GUERRERO

Bicolandia *beckons*

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

HIMMERING Bicolandia, lying after Southern Tagalog—*magayon* (beautiful) to its people—entices the visitor with its challenging mountains, network of caves, black-sand beaches, legends, festivals, lakes and historical landmarks.

The Bicolano epic is that of old Ibalon, a fertile land of brave people and the warrior-heroes Baltog and Handyong, who battled fierce monsters and powerful beings, and made the region prosperous.

Then there is the sad story of Agingay the princess and her lover Bulusan, who both died because of the intrigues of the evil Casiguran. The tears of the princess and the blood of the prince mingled to form Lake Agingay and Lake Bulusan in Sorsogon.

Bicol has four mainland provinces—Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay and Sorsogon—and two island provinces—Catanduanes and Masbate.

Each province has its distinctive characteristics, and the region has major festivals throughout the year, including the Magayon Festival in Legazpi City (Albay) in May and the Alinsangan Festival in Nabua (Camarines Sur), also in May; the recent Pinyasan 2002 or 10th Pineapple Festival in Daet (Camarines Norte); the famous tribute to Our Lady of Peñafrancia during the third week of September in Naga City (Camarines Sur); the Ibalong Festival in Legazpi, the Kasanggayahan Festival in Sorsogon in October; the Rodeo Filipino in Masbate, and the Catandungan Festival in Catanduanes.

Camarines Norte is known for beaches with the biggest seashells in the world, portable picnic cottages in the Bagasbas Beach disconcertingly called STDs (Sa Tabing Dagat), and a Black Nazarene venerated by the Chinese in distant Capalonga. There are black-sand beaches and gold in Paracale.

AN ANNUAL rodeo is now one of the tourist attractions of Masbate.

Vinzons

In Vinzons town near Daet, named after the martyred hero Wenceslao Vinzons Sr. ("the Bicolano who could have become President"), colleague Congee Gomez of the Manila Standard and I came upon the stately pastel-blue-and-white ancestral home of the Vinzons family, now a mini-museum of the National Historical Institute, and officially called the Vinzons Historical Landmark.

The building was the focus of a court battle between the NHI and Vinzons' youngest daughter, Ranney Vinzons Gaite, 65, who wanted the property to revert to the family. The court, however, ruled in favor of the NHI but the Landmark remains closed because, as curator Norma Mago put it, "we do not want to go against the wishes of the youngest daughter of the hero."

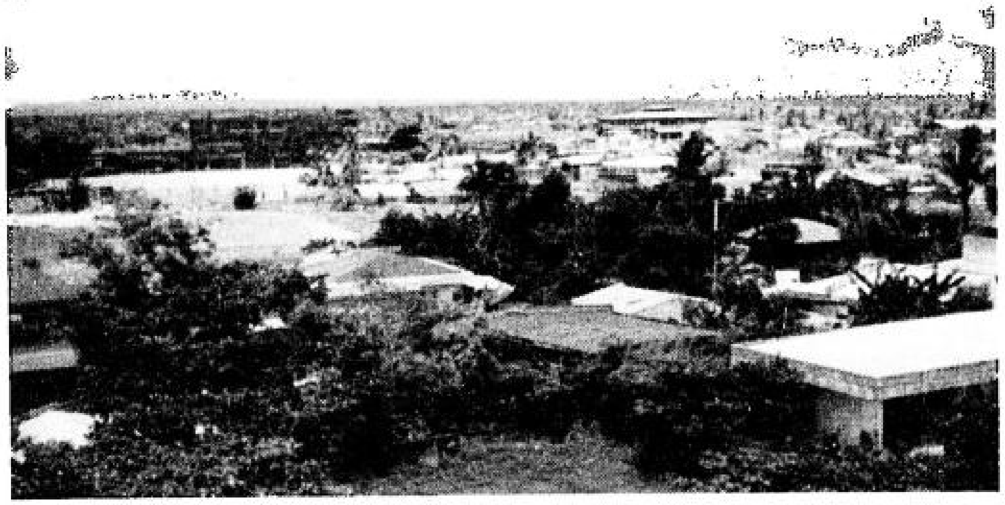
However, two sections of the building, containing the Vinzons memorabilia, are still open. Students and other visitors drop by occasionally, and the curator gives them a short lecture on Vinzons: his outstanding qualities as a leader, and his disappearance in 1942 while a prisoner of the Japanese military.

Vinzons' fate remains unknown. The surviving Japanese officers, including one Naburo Tsunoka, would rather commit suicide than reveal what happened to Vinzons, and thus break the Code of Bushido or whatever.

Eco-tourism

Camarines Norte has its share of alluring eco-destinations, but most are located some distance away from Naga. The Provincial Tourism Office, however, has prepared packages for tourists to the Caramoan Peninsula, with its beaches and sea cliffs; the Consocep Resort along Mt. Isarog; and Lake Buhi, home of the world's smallest fish, *tabios*.

In Albay are many scenes which remind one of an Amorsolo painting: farmers harvesting or plowing the fields, verdant land, rice stacks, carabaos wallowing in their mud bath and mountain peaks.



A VIEW of Daet, Camarines Norte, from the belfry of the Holy Trinity Cathedral.

You don't have to be a trekker to experience Mt. Mayon up close. Near the middle portion of the volcano's cone, on the side not marred by lava flow, is the Mayon Skyline Hotel. Entry point to the hotel is the Barangay Buang junction in Tabaco, Albay, where there are tricycles that will take you to the Skyline.

Simple Stations of the Cross line the road.

And just beside the hotel is the Holy Rosary Mountain, a shrine marked by giant rosary beads, a huge cross, and an elevated chapel devoted to the mysteries of the rosary.

THE CAGSAWA Ruins in Albay.

RAFFY MA. GUERRERO

Caves are another attraction in Albay.

In scenic Sorsogon, the *butanding* (whale shark) season has just ended, but it will resume in October. The *butanding* are harmless, gentle and playful creatures, and they will even swim alongside your boat if you are not too noisy.

Another centerpiece for eco-tourism in Sorsogon is Lake Bulusan, set within a National Park and surrounded by a virgin forest. The picturesque lake is 21 feet deep and covers a circular area of 16 hectares. It is located 6 km from the town proper of Bulusan and a 75-minute drive from Sorsogon City.

Masbate is a province of vast rangelands, plantations, rolling hills, and denuded but green mountains. Like Dumaguete City, the capital has a boulevard with a well-paved promenade and period lampposts. When it comes to cattle, Masbate is second only to Bukidnon, and its homemade corned beef is delicious. Another bestseller is cows' milk *pastillas*.

We end this armchair tour of Bicolandia with Catanduanes, known for its frequent low-pressure areas, ruggedly beautiful terrain and the Puraran Beach, which has the potential to be an international surfing area.

Tourism officials, however, are not that keen on promoting Puraran as another Siargao, mindful about the impact of large-scale tourism on the Catandunganons, who are said to be conservative. And that means, for the foreign women tourists, no topless sunbathing, please, like the ones we sometimes see on Mactan Island and Boracay.

Town lies on inactive volcano's crater floor

By Emir Gamis
Irosin, Sorsogon

CONSIDER a basin where plants and animals grow, rivers interlace, springs gush and rice fields lie in vast stretch. Consider humans inhabiting it.

A pipe dream? No. A figment of someone's imagination? Maybe.

Certainly, there is one thing that will not escape the attention of one who sets foot on Irosin, Sorsogon—the verdant mountains and hills that cradle the town, forming a basin-like topography. The feature, apart from the fact that Irosin is the only landlocked town in Sorsogon, makes it distinct from other towns.

Thus, Irosin, derived from the local term "*iros*" which means to cut off a part, was aptly named.

But more to it, the town is an amazing demonstration of how intricate nature works.

Irosin is inside an ancient and now inactive volcano, a fact known only to most volcanologists and a portion of the town's population.

In fact, it lies on the crater floor of a depressed volcano called caldera, according to Bella Tubianosa, a geologist and resident volcanologist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) at the Bulusan Volcano Observatory in Barangay Monbon.

'Calderagenic'

A caldera is large steep-walled basin-shaped depression formed by the collapse of a large area over and around a volcanic vent. It ranges in size from crudely circular depressions 1-15 miles long to huge elongated depressions as much as 60 miles long.

Information obtained from Phivolcs revealed that based on evidence and preliminary data, a "calderagenic" eruption occurred about 40,000 years ago, extruding extensive amount of rhyolitic pumice and covering almost entirely the whole Sorsogon province such that only the prominent peaks, all of them volcanic in origin, have remained exposed.

The eruption created a caldera, which now measures about 200 meters deep and 11 kilometers in diameter.

Mounts Bulusan and Jormajan later grew on the caldera floor.

The Irosin-Juban valley used to be the floor of an ancient large lake that was formed when Mt. Jormajan was emplaced at the western side of Bulusan volcano.

Unlike in Pinatubo where experts built a canal to drain the lake and avert possible dangers posed by an overflow, the lake was naturally drained when a breach was formed in the eastern side of Mt. Jormajan.

Although erosion has breached the caldera at the mountain's northwestern side and succeeding eruptions masked its northern and northeastern limits, the caldera structure can still be inferred and traced at its southern wall, Phivolcs documents said.

The caldera, which extends to some parts of Juban, Casiguran and Bulusan, was named Irosin Caldera because the majority of the area of Irosin is within the caldera itself, said Sesinando Manlangit Jr, a former resident volcanologist (1992-98) and long-time Phivolcs personnel.

A close resemblance of the Irosin Caldera is the Talisay or Taal Caldera where several towns in Batangas are also situated. Both have volcanoes inside them but the latter still has its lake.

"The main difference is that the Irosin Caldera was formed by the eruption of a very big volcano, whereas the Talisay Caldera is of volcano-tectonic origin or a combination of volcanic and tectonic processes," Manlangit pointed out.

Transformation

Today, Irosin is home to more than 45,000 people who enjoy its bounty and beauty.

It leads in three major agricultural products in the province: rice, abaca and *calamansi*. Consistent as the top rice producer, it is considered the "rice granary" of Sorsogon.

In June alone, it accounted for 7,470.03 metric tons of the 44,589.30 MT in total rice production in the province—the biggest production in Sorsogon, records of the Department of Agriculture showed.

The town also has the biggest land area devoted to abaca and *calamansi*, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics.

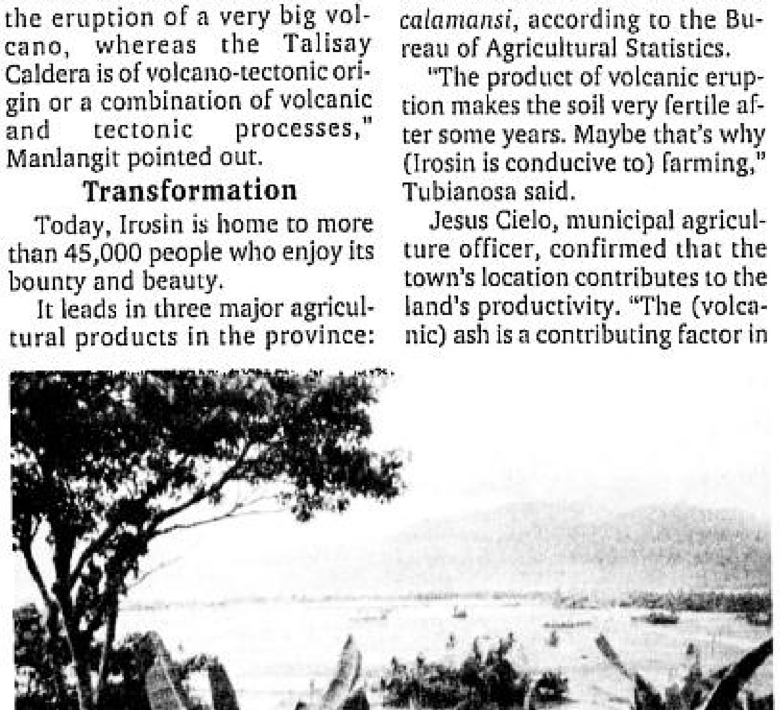
"The product of volcanic eruption makes the soil very fertile after some years. Maybe that's why (Irosin is conducive to) farming," Tubianosa said.

Jesus Cielo, municipal agriculture officer, confirmed that the town's location contributes to the land's productivity. "The (volcanic) ash is a contributing factor in productivity," he said.

But Cielo noted a decline in rice production because of unsparing use of inorganic fertilizers. "Our soil has become slightly acidic because of too much use of inorganic fertilizers. So we encourage the use of combination of organic and inorganic fertilizers," he added.

He cited the drastic decline in abaca production due to pests and the huge decrease in the area planted with *calamansi*.

The solution is to plant other crops and other fruit-bearing trees to utilize the soil and regain its nutrient, Cielo said.



WELL irrigated rice fields of Irosin town in Sorsogon, which lies on a caldera, the crater floor of a depressed volcano. EMIR GAMIS

Springs

The town's cornucopia of springs beckons to people from different places, local or foreign. Well-known is the San Benon hot and cold springs resort in Barangay Monbon, a common commercial destination for visitors and locals alike.

Set at the foot of Mt. Bulusan, with giant trees looming over cottages and reflected in waters dancing to the sound of the nearby forest, the resort never fails to draw people.

Believed to be genetically related to the Bulusan volcano's activities, San Benon is an object of close surveillance by volcano observers. The hot spring's temperature and flow rate are among the monitored parameters of Phivolcs.

Also in Monbon, Mapaso, which literary means "hot," is an all-natural row of lukewarm springs where people bath and launder free. Here is an intimate commune with nature as the birds' music permeates the air, blending with the sound of water issuing from fissures in the earth and flowing freely to somewhere.

The hedge, the towering coconut trees, the shrubs and the low trees that form a canopy over the pools go well beyond aesthetic treat.

Those who cannot stand the heat could try the cold crystal water of the Bolos Spring along the Maharlika Highway, below a slope overlooking the rice fields against the backdrop of mountain ranges and the western horizon.

With fastfood outlets and videoke bars nearby, it is a favorite stopover for motorists who seek respite from an arduous travel or sweltering heat.

Less known springs and natural enticements abound, serving as sanctuaries to wildlife and prized destinations for adventurous forest explorers and nature trekkers.

Eruption?

One wonders if the caldera will erupt and destroy all the beauty that has flourished in it.

"The possibility is remote," Tubianosa said. "A volcano builds up and self-destructs. It's a very big volcano where another smaller volcano, Bulusan, grew so it will take so many years of Bulusan volcano eruptions to fill up the caldera.

"It will take millions of years," the scientist said.

In Valley View, a park perched above the town in Barangay Buenavista, one can see the sweeping panorama of Irosin. Surveying the expanse, with a little knowing as from where the place has evolved, a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude should be in order.

GMA assures creditors rule of law will prevail

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo assured creditors yesterday that she would not arbitrarily rescind contracts with independent power producers (IPPs) despite flaws found in some of them.

She said arbitrarily rescinding contracts would put the government in bad light with foreign and domestic creditors.

Some groups have called on the President to cancel IPP contracts found to be disadvantageous to the government. But Ms Macapagal rejected such calls.

"I don't want it to go the way of the gallery with people shouting, 'Rescind! Rescind!' No, no, no. We have to go by the rule of law," she told reporters at a luncheon in Malacañang yesterday.

She said she would personally supervise any renegotiation "because it's dangerous to go to the extreme of just unilaterally canceling" contracts.

"What will the international creditors say about our commitment to the validity of contracts?" she added.

As part of her 10-point program to bring down power rates, the President recently ordered a review of the 35 existing IPP contracts.

Five contracts were found to have legal and financial issues; 22 were legally sound but have to be renegotiated on financial issues; two were financially sound but have policy issues that have to be remedied. Only six contracts passed the review.

Rights groups train guns on Duterte

From page A1

swer was met with repeated applause, and in the end the President interjected, "Wow, *galing*!"

Duterte said that summary execution of criminals remained the most effective way to curb kidnapping and illicit drugs. "The intention of the criminals is to instill fear in their victims and kill them. What should we do, but kill them also," he said.

The multi-term mayor, whose tough-guy image landed him in Time magazine, also said: "My policy is that if you are a kidnapper and a drug pusher, you put yourself and your life on the line."

"I am sure the good mayor is well-intentioned in (his bid to) combat crime but he should consider that we are human beings," Rosales said in a phone interview.

What is important, she said, is always to "uphold the rule of law and the protection of human rights."

"As human beings, we are guided by considerations of human rights," she said. In the long run, Duterte's position, if applied, would "nurture a culture of violence" and would result in "vigilantism."

She recalled the days when the anti-communist vigilante group Alsa Masa reigned in Davao City. "That (rise of vigilantism) is the real terror," Rosales said.

"What will happen to our country if the law enforcers become the lawbreakers?" Lamban asked in a statement.

A Church-based human rights group blasted Duterte for making a mockery of the anti-kidnapping summit. "It is very lamentable to witness a summit that was supposed to discuss the peace and order situation turn out to be a national promotional event for the culture of lawlessness in our country," the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace said in a statement.

EMJP's secretary general, Dani Beltran, took the President to task for welcoming Duterte's controversial remarks.

When "she chuckles upon hearing Duterte's 'lecture on criminality,' President Macapagal is not just tolerating Duterte's reported involvement in vigilante killings in Davao. The President is in essence campaigning for extra-judicial killings—blatantly disregarding the laws of the land and violating our citizens' rights to due process."

But Dureza defended Duterte, describing the mayor's style as "creating waves in his usual way of handling a situation."

Dureza said there was a lot of public fascination about Duterte's way of governance, but acknowledged that he had succeeded in keeping peace and order in Mindanao's biggest city.

Sonia Garcia, regional director of the Department of Tourism, said the people should first try Duterte's approach to the peace and order problem before criticizing.

"What he has done to Davao City perhaps he can apply on a nationwide scale. Perhaps he can make a difference. If he succeeds, that is for us to wait and see," Garcia added.

Some Chinese-Filipino businessmen present at the summit had welcomed Duterte's hardline stance against kidnap-for-ransom gangs.

John Ng of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry said: "His advocacy is very practical. I think an iron-fist (policy) will solve the problem of kidnappings. This will lead to economic progress."

But Teresita Ang See, chair of the Citizen's Action Against Crime (CAAC), said "short-cutting of the law" should not be tolerated.

"In the end we will be victims of this kind of short-cuts," Ang See said.

Militants cry . . .

From page A1

"He's identified with cause-oriented groups. That's why it's awkward that he is defending Meralco," Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said in a phone interview.

Tañada, head of the Peace Camp alliance against the joint war exercises between Philippine and US forces in Basilan, sat beside Meralco's chief counsel at the ERC hearing.

He endeared himself to nationalist groups when he voted in 1991 with 11 other senators against the continued presence of American military bases in the country.

"I would have preferred that he not represent Meralco . . . but that's his call," Ocampo said.

Ocampo said that it was Tañada's right to represent anyone but he stressed that the former senator had been known to support "consumer causes."

Inhibit

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales asked Tañada to "inhibit" himself from the Meralco case.

"I hope he will not represent Meralco especially today," Rosales said. "He knows people are angry with Meralco over the purchased power adjustment issue."

Asked whether progressive groups opposing Meralco's petition should be surprised to find him on the other side, Tañada said: "I can live with it because the last time Meralco had its rate increase was in 1994."

He said he had been working with Meralco lawyers since the utility firm filed the 30-centavo-per-kilowatthour rate hike petition in 2000.

Last month, the ERC ordered that Meralco's unbundling petition and the 30-centavo rate increase petition be taken up as one petition.

"When Meralco officials approached me for help, I told them that I voted against the passage of the Epira (Electric Power Industry Reform Act)," he told the INQUIRER. "They said it was not a problem."

Under the power reform law, all distributors should break down their power charges into their different components.

The manner by which the unbundling of rates will be done has to be approved by the ERC.

Tañada, who never took the floor during the hearing, explained that he came in "when Haydee Yorac asked me to replace her because she was appointed chief of the Presidential Commission on Good Government."

Brownouts at ERC

As the ERC was hearing the Meralco petition, the ERC office was hit by two five-minute brownouts. But they did not delay the proceedings.

The first power interruption occurred just as Antonio Valera, Meralco senior assistant vice president, was explaining what he meant by quality of service.

Genaro Lualhati, an opponent of the Meralco petition, sent the entire room laughing when he said: "For the record your honor, the lights went out when the witness was explaining what he meant by quality of service."

The second power interruption came 10 minutes later.

Lights in the hearing room went on and off as the building's power source shifted to the local generator and back to Meralco's distribution system.

The ERC scheduled another hearing for July 17 as Meralco still has to present another witness.

IPPs

The high PPA charges stem from the anomalous contracts between the government and independent power producers (IPPs), according to Akbayan and other groups.

Rosales said that if the government refused to cancel the anomalous contracts, private groups would go after the IPPs.

She sai[illegible] Akbayan and the Freed[illegible] Coalition were con[illegible] IPPs whose contracts were found by an inter-agency committee to be disadvantageous to the government.

The five contracts, which were referred to the Department of Justice (DOJ), have legal and financial issues that must be resolved.

At least 22 other contracts were referred to the DOJ for review, while two more were referred to the National Economic and Development Authority.

Rosales said that she strongly opposed the view of Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. that the government was not inclined to cancel the IPP contracts that the inter-agency committee had recommended for renegotiation.

"To do less is to undermine public interest," she said.

Rosales also said that the review by the inter-agency committee was not complete because it had yet to conduct a performance audit of the IPPs.

DOJ panel

In an attempt to further reduce power rates, the DOJ has created a panel to review the legal issues in the five IPP contracts.

With a three-month deadline, the panel headed by State Prosecutor Alex Bacarro has started reviewing the contracts involving the Binga Hydroelectric Plant, Cavite Epza Diesel Plant, Sual coal-fired thermal plant, Casecnan multipurpose project, and San Roque multipurpose project.

Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee said that the main goal of the panel was to find legal remedies for the further reduction of power rates.

He said it was possible that the panel would identify people involved in certain transactions found to be anomalous. But this is just an incidental function, and not the focus of the panel, according to Teehankee.

He said the panel's financial consultants were looking into the overpriced costs of the IPP contracts and the people who profited from them.

"That is something we have our financial consultants looking at," Teehankee said.

Pinning liability on former President Fidel Ramos under whose term the IPP contract were signed would be difficult, according to Teehankee.

"It's very difficult to say (because the contracts were) entered into by the National Power Corp. and the IPPs," Teehankee said when asked to comment on Ramos' possible liability.

"That's very difficult but there are financial experts and forensic accountants who'll examine that. But that is as I said secondary to the main task," he said.

Judgment calls

Ramos gained a sympathizer in Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho who said that the former President, based on a recently concluded review of power contracts signed during Ramos' term, made judgment calls based on projections gone awry.

"There is a difference between a judgment call as opposed to a deliberate wrongdoing. As for FVR, I believe that his was a judgment call that was based on projections that went wrong. Now, is that a crime?" the finance secretary said.

Legislators have asked Camacho, head of the committee that reviewed the government contracts with 35 IPPs, to charge Ramos with plunder for awarding onerous contracts to the IPPs.

"The projections from where the signing of the contracts were based didn't go well. That was a judgment call," Camacho said.

Asked whether he was exonerating Ramos, Camacho said it was not up to him to do that.

Camacho said his job was done after reviewing the 35 contracts and finding 27 of these to be defective.

The next step of renegotiating or filing charges against those that may be found liable should be left to other government officials assigned by Malacañang, he said. ***With a report from Clarissa S. Batino***

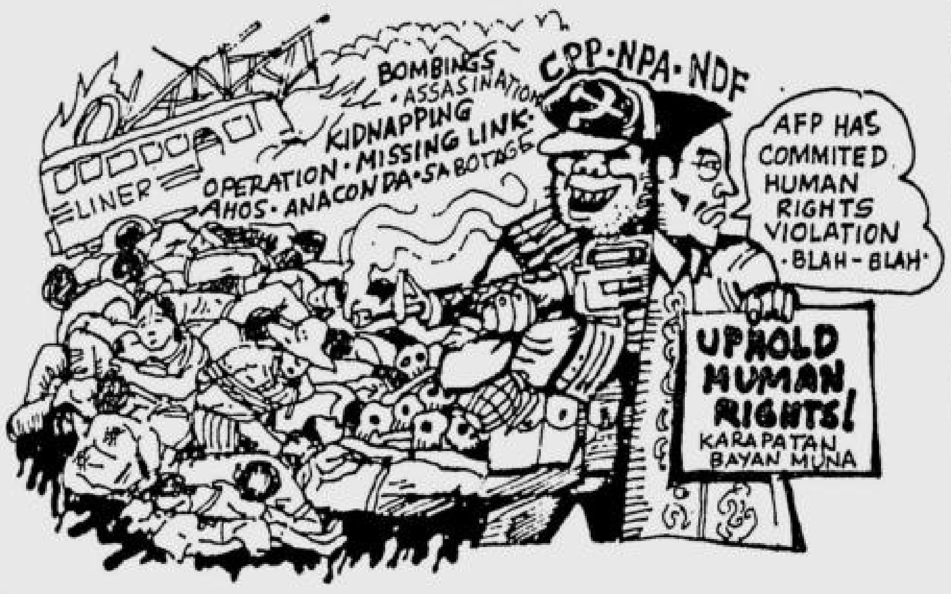
DOBLE-KARA sa KARAPATANG PANTAO

Kung Paanong Ginagamit ng mga Komunista ang Usapin ng Karapatang Pantao upang Patuloy na Labagin Ito

Matagal na ring ginagamit ng CPP-NDF-NPA ang usapin ukol sa karapatang pantao para sa kanilang taktikal na pangangailangan. Nag-iingay sila ukol sa karapatang pantao kapag nagigipit ng militar ang kanilang mga armadong puwersa. Nag-iingay din sila ukol sa karapatang pantao upang pagtakpan ang mga paglabag nila sa mga karapatang ito.

Noong dekada otsenta, libu-libong mga kadre ng CPP at gerilya ng NPA ang pinahirapan at walang-awang pinaslang ng kanilang mga lider. Isa na sa mga lider na ito ay si Satur Ocampo. Patuloy din ang kampanya noon ng CPP-NPA laban sa mga karaniwang kawal at pulis. Walang awang tinatambangan nila pati ang mga pulis-trapiko at binibihag ang sinumang madampot nilang military. Habang nagaganap ang karahasang ito, pati na ang pamumuksa sa sarili nilang mga kasamahan, sukdulan naman ang ingay ng mga grupong kontrolado ng CPP ukol sa diumano'y "human rights violations" ng AFP.

Sa madaling salita, ang karapatang pantao ay karapatan ng akusado na ipagtanggol ang sarili sa isang malinaw at patas na proseso. Tulad ito ng ginagarantiyahan ng ating Konstitusyon at sinusunod ng ating sistema ng hustisya. Taliwas dito ang ginagawa ng CPP-NPA-NDF. Ang akusado ay ginagawaran muna ng kaparusahan bago ibunyag ang kasalanan. Wala siyang karapatang ipagtanggol ang sarili, walang abugado, walang pagdinig ng magkabilang panig at walang ginagalang na husgado. Karaniwan pa nga'y kasinungalingan o kaya'y pawang intriga lamang ang batayan ng pamamarusa ng mga teroristang ito.



Dahil sa doble-karang pagturing sa karapatang pantao ng CPP-NPA, pumalag ang mga dati nilang taga-suporta sa mga grupong nagtataguyod ng human rights. Bilang tugon, nagtayo ng sariling "human rights group" ang CPP-NPA, ang Karapatan. Lubos nilang kontrolado ang grupong ito at walang kahihiyang nagpapagamit ito para sa mga layuning propaganda ng CPP-NPA. Epektibo rin ang Karapatan bilang daanan ng malaking salapi mula sa mga dayuhang taga-suporta ng local na kilusang komunista.

Walang humpay ang paglabag sa karapatang pantao ng CPP-NPA. Noong isang taon, pinaslang ng NPA si Rep. Marcial Punzalan sa Quezon. Ilang linggo matapos ito, pinaslang naman nila si Gub. Rodolfo Aguinaldo sa Cagayan. Sinunod din ng mga gerilyang komunista si Jose Libayao, pinuno ng isang grupong lumad na ayaw sumuporta sa mga komunista. Bago matapos ang taon, pinaslang naman si Mayor Bernard Sarayat sa Laguna. Daan-daan pang karaniwang mamamayan ang biktima ng mga teroristang ito. Bukod sa pamamaslang, sinunog din ng mga terorista ang ilang bus at mga cell sites ng mga kumpanyang ayaw pumayag sa kanilang pangingikil.

Ngayon, bukod sa grupong Karapatan, ang partidong Bayan Muna ang instrumento ng CPP-NPA sa loob ng Konggreso para bigyan ng ligal at pampulitikang suporta ang mga terroristang komunista at para isulong ang kampanya ng paninira laban sa pamahalaan at kawal ng Republika. Tulad sa Basilan, nagsasagawa ang Bayan Muna ng mga imbestigasyon, —hindi ang pananalanta ng bandidong Abu Sayaff kundi sa di-umano'y abuso ng AFP. Nagpatibay pa ito ng resolusyon para magmukhang "may pampulitikang panunupil" ngayon. Pinalalabas nilang myembro ng Bayan Muna ang NPA ang napapatay o nabibihag sa enkuwentro.

Kumakailan lamang, tinuligsa ni Satur Ocampo ang mga operasyong militar ng AFP laban sa pandarahas ng NPA sa mga lugar na pinamumugaran nito. Ayon kay Ocampo "sa mga lugar na ito ay malakas din ang Bayan Muna" Lumilitaw dito na ayaw magambala ni Ocampo ang paghahari ng CCP-NPA at tiyakin na ang maka-komunistang kandidato nila ang mananalo sa darating na halalang pambaranggay. Batid ng mga teroristang ito na ang usapin ukol sa karapatang pantao ay madaling maka-akit ng suporta mula sa mga demokratikong bansa, mga grupong relihiyoso at mga international institutions. Nais nilang mabaling ang pansin ng mga ito palayo sa mga karahasang ginagawa ng mga teroristang CPP-NPA.

Panahon na upang ilantad ng mamamayan ang kahangalan ng mga terorista sa isyu ng karapatang pantao.

Nanawagan kami sa mga pamilya ng mga pinuksa ng CPP-NPA, sa mga biktima ng pangongotong ng mga teroristang ito at sa lahat ng biktima ng pananakot na maki-isa sa paglalantad ng katotohanan.

Sa Hulyo 11, sama-sama nating ipakita sa buong daigdig na hindi tayo pagagapi sa pananakot at sa karahasan ng mga teroristang komunista. Magtipon tayo sa People Power Monument sa Edsa sa ganap na alas-dos ng hapon upang kondenahin ang tahasang paglabag sa karapatang pantao ng CPP-NPA.

Ang katotohanan ang magpapalaya sa atin mula sa mga alagad ng karahasan at kasinungalingan.

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GMA to critics: I make the decision

From page A1

were saying because "it's a battle of different tongues."

"So in the end," she said, "it has to be my contact."

Be like the typhoon

As though in tune with the President's tough tone, Sen. Manuel Villar said she should prove herself to be as strong as typhoon "Gloria" in order to prove her political enemies wrong.

"I want to see the real Gloria—the one as strong as the typhoon—because a lot of people is saying that she is a weak leader," Villar said.

He said the President should show that she was a strong leader who could surmount all obstacles and remain standing in the end.

"The President should stick to her principles. It's her duty to provide good governance. She should not listen to people who are actually saying she's weak," he added.

In fact, said the President, she had inherited a "sharply divided" society from Estrada, "so the wind is not unidirectional."

"If you're just going to follow the wind you'll just be buffeted here and there," she said. "So you have to have your own contrast, and that requires strength."

Referring to the Monday meeting, the President said her supporters "realized, and they said so, that their apprehensions about the supposed appointment of Ople, the Punos and Policarpio were only just speculations in the media.

"Not everything is the way it appears if they are just going to read the papers and watch TV, she said.

The President also scored ABS-CBN News Channel for reporting, based on an interview with Saycon, that some of her Cabinet members might resign because of such issues.

According to Villar, the President should address concerns such as the rising number of kidnappings, the purchased power adjustment surcharges in consumers' electricity bills, and the ongoing impasse in the Senate.

Reuters reported that the lunch was interrupted once by a phone call from the new chief of the Philippine National Police, Hermogenes Ebdane.

The President said he had called to discuss reorganizing the PNP. Most of the conversation was inaudible, but at one point the President said testily: "Can he have his cake and eat it, too?"

"I don't micromanage the police," she said later. "I do micromanage the economy . . . I am an economist, not a policeman. But I track the police and the military closely."

Told that typhoon Gloria had inflicted so much damage on the economy and the people, Villar said the President should not do the same.

He said one could be strong without necessarily inflicting damage on anyone or anything.

Asked if Ms Macapagal needed to shape up, Villar said he would never say that.

"I just want the President to prove her critics wrong by gaining more momentum in her work and dedication to serve the people," he said.

Be cautious

Another administration senator, Francis Pangilinan, called on the President to be more cautious in striking alliances with forces associated with Estrada to avoid "alienating her own political base."

Pangilinan said Ms Macapagal should "review her coalition plans" with the Estrada officials.

"Or can it be that there are no permanent enemies, no permanent friends, and only permanent interests in Philippine politics?" he said.

He pointed out that Ms Macapagal should "think twice about accommodating other political forces" and "instead continue to reach out to her traditional allies."

But congressmen belonging to the ruling Lakas rallied behind the President and assailed the complaining members of civil society groups.

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez, Malabon/Navotas Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II, Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. said there was nothing wrong if the administration tapped former allies of Estrada.

"That is a misplaced complaint," Gonzalez said. "It betrays the selfish partisan thinking of these people. We don't even know where these people are coming from."

According to Gonzalez, the Constitution allows the President to draw people from all sectors of society to serve in times of crisis.

"The President has the prerogative to draw from the best minds who can help regardless of party affiliations," Gonzalez said, adding that she could hire "anybody who is not a criminal."

He said that to stop the "hallucinations" of civil society groups, the President should appoint Saycon to her Cabinet.

Gonzalez had voiced reservations on Ople's appointment to the DFA because of the senator's condition that he would first vote for the Senate opposition bloc at the opening of session on July 22.

Pichay said civil society should stop exerting pressure on the President.

"With all respect to their advocacy for good governance, civil society groups may be perceived as being members of evil society if they promote a brand of politics that is divisive and partisan," Pichay said.

Pichay said he did not agree with the appointment of certain opposition personalities but stressed that the President should be given the leeway to reach out to all political sectors.

"As President, you should have no enemies because you are President of all people. Her first priority is to unite all Filipinos," Pichay said.

Sandoval said he supported the President's plan to enlist opposition personalities into the government.

"It's national interest above anything else. These people should look beyond partisan political interests because nobody has a monopoly of the right opinion," Sandoval said.

Barbers said his group, the "Spice Boys" of Congress, would come up with a stand on the purported influence peddling of certain civil society groups, particularly Copa.

He said these groups had been given "much favors" by the government but still wanted more.

"They make it seem like the President is indebted to them. But we know who really helped," Barbers said.

Get out of bed

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan urged civil society groups that had worked with it in People Power II to withdraw support from the administration.

Bayan said it was useless to keep a blind eye to the supposed faults and infidelity of the President, whom the civil society and militant groups installed after toppling the Estrada administration in January last year.

"If you can't stand the political promiscuity of the President, then you better get out of the bedroom. There's no use torturing yourself with an unfaithful spouse," Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño said in a statement.

Casiño predicted that the President would be doing "more flirting and sleeping" around as the 2004 elections neared in an attempt to boost her election.

He said the President had proved that she would not hesitate to trash the reforms and "new politics" that she had promised in her first speech as head of state and use traditional means to advance her political ambition.

Bayan urged erstwhile allies Kompil II and Copa to go back to the streets and continue the fight that they started.

"Remember, our loyalty then was not to any administration but to the people's aspirations for genuine social change," Casiño reminded the civil society groups.

Bayan is preparing to hold a rally on July 22, simultaneous with the opening of Congress. ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Rocky Nazareno, Juliet L. Javellana, Blanche S. Rivera and Reuters***

I am not an enemy of the people—Ople

From page A1

some Cabinet officials to express concern over his supposed impending appointment as DFA chief and the administration's recruitment of three of Joseph Estrada's "boys."

"They are entitled to their own self-righteous conclusions, although such self-appointed juries are not necessarily more competent than others to pass judgment," he said.

He also said these groups had their axes to grind and that they represented no accountable power other than claims to having helped put Ms Macapagal in power.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, leader of the opposition bloc, said the President would not be sleeping with the enemy should she consider Ople for the foreign affairs portfolio.

"I don't think Senator Ople is in the same league, the same level, as the Punos (Ronaldo and Ricardo) and (Jaime) Policarpio," Angara told a press conference.

"I think Ka Blas is in a class by himself and therefore we should not classify him in the same class as them," Angara added.

The President herself is playing coy on whether she will hand the top post of the Department of Foreign Affairs to the former labor minister of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

"Since sooner or later something will happen, let's wait for it to happen before we tell the stories," she said.

She was apparently hinting at the behind-the-scenes negotiations that attended the courting of Ople, who has admitted that Ms Macapagal first offered the DFA post to him over dinner last December.

"Let's just talk about Ople if and when something actually happens," the President said in response to persistent questions on the senator's supposed impending appointment. "As I said, let's just talk about all those things afterwards."

Political vendetta

Ople said branding the political opposition as an enemy precluded the possibility of national reconciliation and solidarity for the common good.

"It is a prescription for never-ending political vendetta as a central theme of national life," he said.

He pointed out that the people addressed the issues raised against him by the civil society groups when they allowed him to sit as a senator, and said there was no higher authority than the sovereign people casting their ballots in free elections.

Ople also said the appointment of Cabinet members was a total prerogative of the President under the Constitution, for which she was accountable only to the people.

He said nobody had a right to dictate to the President on such matters.

"It seems that the President is under siege from quarters professing their allegiance to her but actually exerting pressure on her for their own ends," he noted.

Ople said Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo was right in asking these groups what moral ascendancy they had to impose on a sitting President.

He said Ms Macapagal should not be made a prisoner of special private interests "masquerading as champions of the public interest."

He said it was entirely up to the President whether she would stand her ground.

Stop listening

Angara said the President should stop listening to Copa and other such groups so the country could move forward.

He said a "self-righteous" bloc in the Senate would not also dare "sleep with the enemy," making reconciliation and cooperation with the opposition quite difficult for the administration.

According to Angara, civil society groups are dictating the direction of the administration. "We don't pay much attention to this segment because if you follow them, there will be perpetual strife and conflict in our society and we will never achieve cooperation among ourselves," he said.

Angara said the choice of Ople would be good for the administration as long as the decision transcended personality. "The allies of Ms Macapagal in the Cabinet are protesting because there is (such an) intellectual bankruptcy (in) the administration that they cannot tap talented persons (from) their ranks to head the premier position of foreign affairs," he said.

Angara said that he had a long talk with Ople about the issue and that the latter agreed to "think about it even more" should the President make a formal offer.

"I think that is in keeping with his humble character," Angara said. "All of us in the party look up to him as our dean. In effect, he is the dean of senators."

Also yesterday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson backed Ople's stand on the matter.

"The good statesman that he is, whatever decision Senator Ople makes must be supported by us, his colleagues, whether from the opposition or the administration," Lacson said.

He said the opposition should close ranks and not be carried away by intrigue and Malacañang's supposed divisive tactics.

"I see Senator Ople's wisdom in testing Malacañang's sincerity ..." Lacson said. "Let us wait and see whether the administration offer would stand even after the Senate opens on July 22."

Search committee

Earlier, Ople said he would consider accepting the DFA post only if the President formally offered it to him, and after he had voted with the opposition at the opening of Congress on July 22.

A Cabinet official said the three-member search committee formed by the President to list potential appointees to the DFA would start its work only after Vice President Teofisto Guingona had stepped down, as "a gesture of respect" to him.

The committee is composed of Ms Macapagal's adviser Vicky Garchitorena, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman.

The President said she would wait for the committee's recommendations, but stressed that it would only "help me make a decision."

"It does not make a decision for me," she said.

She refused to answer questions on the reasons and events that led to Guingona's resignation, and merely announced what was already known—that he would relinquish the DFA post effective July 15 and that she would subsequently assume the foreign affairs portfolio in a concurrent capacity.

"I don't think I should add any more salt on the wounds of the Vice President," she said. "The most important thing is for our relationship to be as amiable as possible."

Senate 'working . . .

From page A1

relations with the new minority," he declared.

Such a coalition may be formed sooner than later, with reports of Legarda visiting on Saturday Angara's farm in Nasugbu, Batangas.

But Legarda quickly downplayed the incident, saying she merely passed by to exchange pleasantries with the opposition leader.

She said she was to have had a pictorial Thursday for the international magazine Tattler at the Loreli island off the coast of the Punta Fuego Resort that her family owned, but that this had to be postponed because of the foul weather.

"Everything was already set but Punta Fuego did not permit us, at first, to shoot. So I had to find an alternative venue," she said.

Legarda said it was then that she recalled that she had a standing invitation from Angara to visit his farm.

"There was a crew of about 20 people, and I find it a nice gesture on the part of Senator Angara, who graciously accommodated us at short notice," she said.

Legarda insisted that "there was nothing political" in her visit, which, she said, should only be viewed as "a favor being done by a friend."

"Senator Angara and I have been friends, and we can rise about politics and still keep our friendship," Legarda said, adding that she was "staying" with the ruling Lakas.

3 to switch

Angara expressed confidence that at least three administration senators would switch to the opposition before July 22.

He said the claim of pro-administration senators that the numbers would be 14-10 in their favor was "plain propaganda."

"Don't accept that because what is happening now is, Malacañang has no good news to offer," he said. "That is why they are focusing on the Senate and coming out with all sorts of fiction."

Angara said there was "very little chance" that the administration would get to pirate anyone in the opposition.

On the contrary, he said, up to four members of the administration bloc might be recruited to the opposition. But he refused to name them.

He also said some administration senators had recognized the new majority, and cited Sen. Juan Flavier's turnover of the committee on health to Sen. Luisa Ejercito.

2 to snub

But a source in the Senate said opposition Senators Robert Jaworski and Sergio Osmeña III would snub the opening of the second regular session of the 12th Congress on July 22.

According to the source, Jaworski and Osmeña would deliberately delay their return from the United States until after the administration bloc shall have been able to restore itself in power with a majority vote.

"This is a classic case of giving the opposition a taste of its own medicine," the source said.

On June 3, the opposition bloc invoked Sen. Ramon Revilla's absence to claim that it had a majority of 12 and proceeded to reorganize the Senate.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said that this was illegal, and that a majority "of all senators, meaning 13 votes," was needed to reorganize the chamber.

"With Jaworski and Osmeña still in the US by July 22, the opposition cannot dismiss its own earlier assertion that only a majority of all those present is needed for a reorganization," the source said.

Legarda said the administration bloc was "confident" that it would be able to "woo at least two from the opposition."

"I am not in a position to say who, but our reliable source said two opposition senators will defect to the administration. And that does not include Senator Ople," she said.

Weak DOH imperils HMOs; most losing money, says study

From page A1

the mid-1990s, when "the high priests of the industry preached . . . the soundness of HMO coffers. If the HMOs were to be believed, there were absolutely no reasons to be worried about, no cause for panic, and no need to fret." But things took a turn for the worse in 1997 with the Asian financial crisis.

From then on, the well of HMO profits no longer seemed bottomless.

The spokesperson for the country's HMOs, Jesus Verne Quiazon, said the HMO industry did better in the last two years than the Philippine economy—growing between 15 and 20 percent.

"Much of the growth was from rate increases (of about 15 percent). However, the growth in actual members was small. In fact, we've had some accounts that cut down, laid off some people," Quiazon, the president of the Association of Health Maintenance Organizations in the Philippines (Ahmopi), said.

Managing medical costs is still HMOs' biggest problem. Quiazon said "70 percent of HMO membership fees goes back to hospitals and doctors. Medical inflation is at 15 percent right now because a large component of health care is imported, putting current medical inflation at 15 percent. Even ordinary hospital supplies like syringes and sutures are imported. The same with most medicines, which makes the industry very dependent on currency exchange rates. That is why, it is very difficult to predict the trend for HMO medical costs."

In dollar terms, Quiazon said the average that HMOs charge its members was below $100 (some P5,000) a year. "In the US, they pay at least $100 a month. So our fees are still cheap. But it is still difficult to explain to our members that because of your utilization we'll have to increase your rates by 20 percent this year. They'll say, 'inflation rate is only 4 percent, so why charge us an additional 20?'"

In December 2000, about 1.1 million individual and 3.07 million institution-subscribed clients were enrolled nationwide in different HMOs. PhilamCare had more than 350,000 members while Medicard and Pryce Care had more than 200,000 and 150,000 subscribers.

The figures have been going up over the years, Quiazon said. "But I don't think it will ever be a profitable industry in the same way that industries like pharmaceuticals are profitable."

"Health is not very high in the consciousness of Filipinos. In national discussions people would talk about peace and order, graft and corruption, even the death of (movie and TV actor) Rico Yan, but hardly health issues," he said.

DOH regulation

HMOs deem regulation by the Department of Health appropriate, because the agency already regulates hospitals, clinics and laboratories nationwide and is also involved in health financing and service delivery.

But critics of the pre-paid health care system see the DOH as part of the problem.

The agency's Bureau of Health Facilities and Services is tasked to issue operational clearances to HMOs by virtue of DOH Administrative Order 34, issued in July 1994.

But "the extent of the bureau's jurisdiction is not clear because we're dealing with private corporations. The truth is we have no illusion about regulating both the medical and financial aspects of the HMO industry," said lawyer Nicolas Lutero, BHFS director.

"We have no problem as far as the medical side is concerned because that's the expertise of DOH. But looking into HMOs' business transactions is another thing. We have no expertise in checking their business capabilities. We can't tell if an HMO is still viable or not. We merely require them to have at least P10 million in initial capitalization," Lutero said.

Actually, the DOH started asking HMOs to comply with the capital requirement only in 1996, two years after AO 34. "But what is P10 million these days? Ideally, it should be P50 million," Lutero said.

Lutero's office also receives complaints from HMO subscribers, which it then refers to Ahmopi, which has an arbitration procedure. "We take over if the association fails to resolve the issue," Lutero said.

Subscribers do have an alternative, but it is not a tempting one: they can file their complaints with the courts.

Obvious shortcomings

Currently, only 17 HMOs are registered with the DOH. AO 34 does not specify sanctions against HMOs that refuse to be licensed. "With or without a DOH clearance they can go about their respective businesses," said the 2001 Philhealth report.

With its obvious shortcomings, the DOH is amenable to the proposed dual regulation of HMOs by the department and the Insurance Commission, which is attached to the Department of Finance.

The commission "can very well help in the joint regulatory process. We're experts in determining the solvency of insurance companies and putting safeguards to protect the solvency of business organizations. When it comes to professional determination, it's DOH's call. We don't see any conflict. What is salutary is that both the DOH and the commission are in perfect agreement. We both believe it can be done," said Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis.

"We are ready, but the decision is with Congress. So it's not for us to set the timetable. It's the legislature's," Malinis said.

At the House of Representatives, the health committee already reported out House Bill No. 588, which calls for dual regulation of HMOs by the DOH and the Insurance Commission.

The measure, authored by Rep. Emilio Macias II of Negros Occidental, defines HMOs as insurance entities, not health service providers.

HB 588 is no silver bullet but it guarantees HMO subscribers the right to choose their physicians and see a specialist, among other provisions, and grants health care providers full freedom to manage and treat their patients as well as prompt and just compensation for their services. The bill also provides for administrative sanctions against erring HMOs.

Both Speaker Jose de Venecia and Cebu Rep. Antonio Yapha Jr., health panel chair, said they were optimistic the HMO bill would be passed by the House this year.

The problem, Yapha said, is the Senate, which has yet to deliberate on its counterpart HMO measure.

"The first HMOs took great pains to stay out of the supervision of the Insurance Commission because they would have been required to set up premium reserves, their investments severely regulated and every aspect of their operations subject to close and regular examination," the 2001 PhilHealth report pointed out.

The Philhealth findings jibed with Malinis' views, who said HMOs were indeed in the business of insurance. "Very, very close. About 90 percent. HMOs are one of the types of insurance. There's pre-need, HMOs are pre-paid. In fact, what the HMOs can do insurance companies can also provide. In the United States, they are considered as insurance firms and HMOs are patterned after those in the US," Malinis said.

The PhilHealth study also showed that HMOs viewed the Insurance Commission as a deterrent to growth because of its strict rules. Not true, Quiazon said. In fact, Ahmopi is "very supportive of the House bill on dual regulation. We believe it will bring stability and discipline into the industry."

Anti-kidnap drive scores: 5 arrested

From page A1

"SMALL Arms Destruction Day" is observed by member countries of the United Nations on Wednesday when a road roller destroyed pistols and rifles at Camp Crame. The ceremony is the centerpiece of the regional seminar on the UN Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which the Philippines and Canada are jointly hosting. DENNIS SABANGAN

Rolando Labay, Pepito Iglecerio, Rico Iglecerio, Redentor Paquita and Sulpicio Fajutag—were allegedly behind the abduction of Romeo Bayanay, Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, chief of the Intelligence Group, said in a report.

Bayanay, principal of the Labasan Elementary School, was abducted on July 1 in Barangay Labasan, Bongabong town in Oriental Mindoro. He was later released after his family paid P1 million in ransom to the kidnappers.

A police team recovered P98,410 from the suspects, who are now detained at the Bongabong Municipal Jail.

Two other members of the group, one alias Ka Pemping, Peter or Brandoa, and an un-identified suspect are being hunted down.

It was not immediately known if the kidnap gang was on the PNP order of battle.

Workshop

Finding the results of Tuesday's anti-kidnapping summit still wanting, the national police will hold today a workshop on anti-kidnapping at the police headquarters in Camp Crame with no less than the President as main guest.

The workshop will finalize the "order of battle" against kidnappers and identify the personalities behind them, police officials said yesterday.

"It's just a continuation of the summit held Tuesday," said Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, newly designated PNP spokesperson.

He said the workshop "only shows the President's seriousness in cracking down on kidnappers."

The President said she wanted to know the PNP's priorities in its "all-out war" against 21 kidnap syndicates.

"Again I will not make a speech. I will listen to their order of battle so we can (monitor) the progress," she said.

Ms Macapagal said she would not get in the way of police operations and would only monitor the results.

"I'm an economist. I'm not a police officer," she said.

The conference starts at 8 a.m. The President will arrive at 10 a.m.

At the national summit on anti-kidnapping and illegal drugs at the Manila Hotel on Tuesday, the President directed the PNP to focus its efforts on crushing the active kidnap-for-ransom groups, especially the top three.

At the close of the one-day summit attended by police officials and members of the private sector, officials announced the holding of another workshop within a few days to update the list of kidnap syndicates.

Composition

For his part, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., PNP chief, said the new anti-kidnap task force would be composed of personnel of the defunct National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR Task Force (Naktaf).

"We will form an anti-kidnapping unit and make use of personnel and members of the Naktaf since I'm responsible for that," Ebdane, who had headed the Naktaf, told reporters.

At the summit, delegates, composed of police officials and Chinese-Filipino businessmen and anti-crime watchdog officials, recommended the formation of a "unified kidnap body" to handle all kidnapping cases.

Ebdane later announced that an anti-kidnapping task force would be created within a few days.

Last week, Ms Macapagal directed the then newly designated PNP chief Ebdane to root out the kidnapping problem within a year, and ordered the abolition of all anti-kidnap task forces, including the Naktaf.

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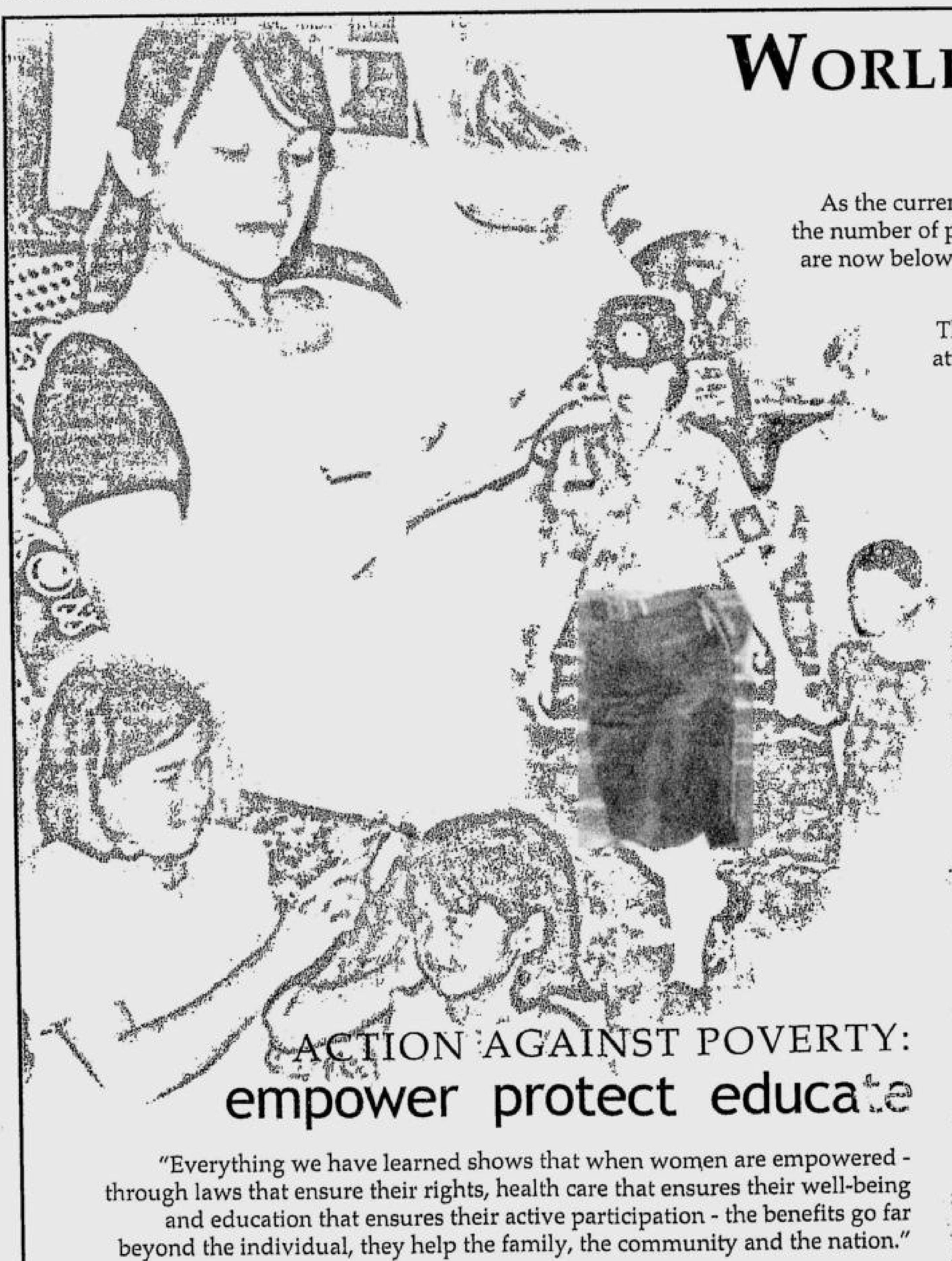


WORLD POPULATION DAY
11 July 2002

As the current population of the Philippines reached an estimated 80 million, the number of poor Filipinos has also expanded to nearly half of it — 40 percent are now below poverty line. With the rise of newborns and new families comes the increase in people's basic needs to continue human life

The country will have a chance of reducing poverty when couples attain their aspiration to have the number of children they want. If all couples realize this, it will be a good start for a better life.

Efforts to address poverty cannot have significant achievements unless we direct more resources to women and reproductive health. Women can break the cycle of poverty if they are educated and supported.

ACTION AGAINST POVERTY:
empower protect educate

"Everything we have learned shows that when women are empowered - through laws that ensure their rights, health care that ensures their well-being and education that ensures their active participation - the benefits go far beyond the individual, they help the family, the community and the nation."

Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
Commission on Population

FOUR DIGIT
Luzon 7 5 3 6
(in exact order)
Vis/Min 6 7 9 3

MEGALOTTO 6/45
37 24 25 23 32 43

SUERTRES 2 0 5

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Qualifier boots out Costa

GSTAAD, Switzerland—Unheralded French qualifier Paul Henri Mathieu ousted French Open champion and top-seeded Albert Costa of Spain, 6-4, 6-3, in the opening round Tuesday of the $600,000 Swiss Open. Mathieu, who went through two rounds of qualifying, had little trouble dispatching the two-time former Swiss Open champion. **AP**

'CLASH OF THE TITANS'

SMB-Red Bull today

GAME TODAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
7 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel

By June Navarro

SIZE will definitely matter when Batang Red Bull and San Miguel Beer collide today in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup.

Billed as "The Clash of the Titans," the hulking Thunder and the bulky Beermen are set to rock the Cuneta Astrodome starting at 7 p.m.

Today's protagonists, however, have contrasting fortunes in their recent encounters, putting both squads on equal footing as far as momentum and drive are concerned.

The Beermen, drawing firepower from the 6-foot-9 Art Long and the hot-shooting Shea Seals, are on the prowl, seeking yet another victim after sound victories over Coca-Cola (83-75) and Purefoods (81-58), respectively.

Since the power-dunking Long and Seals donned the San Miguel jersey, the Beermen surged from two winless starts to a 2-2 record tied with Sta. Lucia Realty and the Selecta-RP Team.

Add the 6-foot-8 Dorian Peña and the 6-foot-6 Arnold Gamboa to the fray and the Thunder will have a lot of headaches coming their way.

But the Thunder don't easily back down, not with Julius Nwosu (6-foot-8), Davonn Harp (6-foot-7) and Tony Lang (6-foot-7) around.

The cohesiveness of this unit inside the paint alone could neutralize even the purest of outside shooters the Beermen have with due respect, of course, to Boybits Victoria and Dwight Lago.

Their chemistry plus a host of stubborn snipers in Willie Miller, Jimwell Torion, Anton Villoria, Junthy Valenzuela, Lordy Tugade and Vince Hizon had the Thunder sporting a 3-1 card.

A major slip against Shell last Saturday, 82-81, was the only stain on the Thunder's slate after beating their first three enemies.

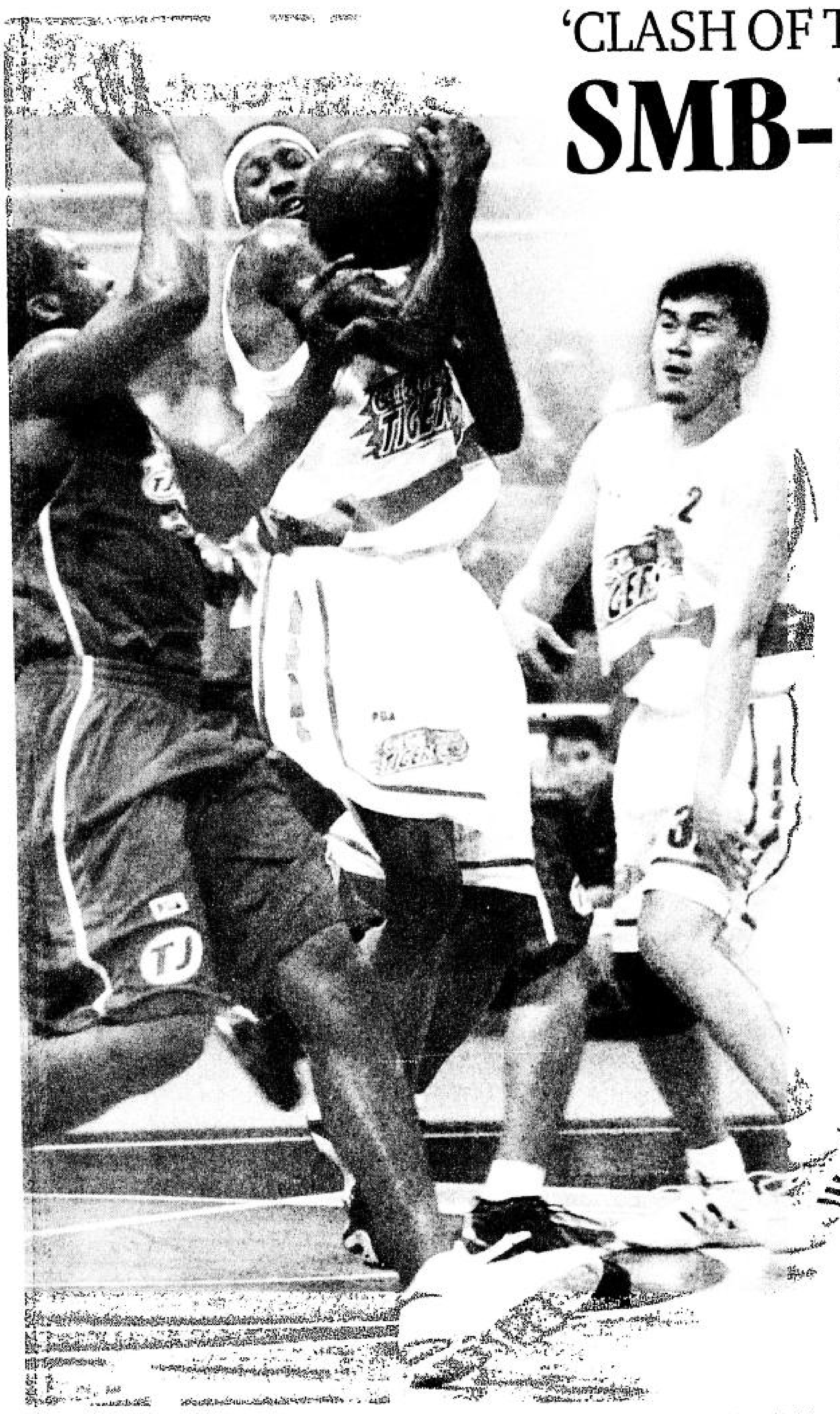
Another point of interest would be the rematch angle of both teams, which contested the Commissioner's Cup title last season.

The Thunder stunned the Beermen during the Finals and took home the crown in only their fifth conference in the league since joining in 2000.

Meanwhile, the Barangay Ginebra Kings have a new import but will not see action until next week.

Isaac Spencer, Murray University's second all-time leading scorer, is set to arrive this weekend and will not be suiting up for the Kings against Sta. Lucia Realty in Dumaguete on Friday.

The 6-foot-5 Murray played for St. Joseph's Express in the USBL, norming 18.6 points (10th overall) during the 2001-2002 season.



COCA-Cola's Bryant Basemore grabs the rebound from Gabe Muoneke of Purefoods (left) as Edward Juinio of Coca-Cola looks on during their PBA game Tuesday night. The Tigers won, 91-72. ROMY HOMILLADA

Jao posts 5th straight victory

ROSARIO, Batangas—Defending champion Jolet Jao of Shell-YRS Racing registered his fifth straight win but his streak was cut short by Toti Alberto of Access Plus-Ducati Manila in the Shell Advance Super Bikes of the 2002 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently in Barangay Maligaya here.

Jao narrowly beat Alberto in Race 5, posting the fastest laptime of 1:52.312 on the eighth lap en route to ruling the Expert Class of this event sanctioned by the Automotive Association of the Philippines (formerly PMA) and sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors, Phil., MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro, Casino Filipino, Kilton Motors Corp., and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through General Manager Honeygirl de Leon.

Jao clocked a total 27:32.690, or just .481 seconds ahead of Alberto.

Jeff Andres checked in third with a time of 28:07.998, while Rod Scott and Randy Ortiz wound up fourth and fifth, respectively.

Alberto also had the fastest laptime of 1:51.638. Alberto showed consistency in Race 6 as he pulled a faster time of 1:45.64, in the second lap.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: CVS Charity Classic, Day One at 10 a.m. on ESPN

PGA Advil Western Open, Final Round at 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.(r) on Star Sports

This is the PGA Tour at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports and 8:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

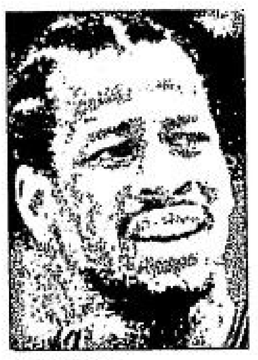
EPGA Evian Masters, First Round at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 7:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

CYCLING: Tour De France 2002 Highlights Stage #4 at 12:30 p.m. (r – 6:30 p.m.) on ESPN

Police pursue arrest warrant vs Iverson

PHILADELPHIA—Police plan to recommend that prosecutors issue a warrant for the arrest of NBA All-Star Allen Iverson for allegedly barging into an apartment and threatening two men while armed.



IVERSON

District Attorney Lynne Abraham's office will be asked Wednesday to approve charges of aggravated assault and making terroristic threats while armed, Philadelphia police Lt. Michael Chitwood said Tuesday night.

"We feel there's enough evidence there now to do what we've got to do - arrest him," said Chitwood, who participated in the investigation.

If Abraham approves the charges, the Philadelphia 76ers guard would be asked to turn himself in, police said.

Cathie Abookire, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office, said Tuesday night that prosecutors have not gotten any word from police about Iverson.

"When we receive paperwork from the Police Department, we will review it," Abookire said.

Iverson has not commented publicly and no one answered the intercom Tuesday outside his suburban Philadelphia mansion.

The 76ers issued a statement late Tuesday night, saying the team had been advised that "charges are imminent."

"We will continue to support Allen while we await the outcome of these proceedings," the statement said.

Iverson had a gun when he forced his way inside an apartment last week and threatened two men, according to one of the men.

Charles Jones, 21, met with police Tuesday and told reporters Iverson threatened him and another man in the early morning hours of July 3.

Iverson, accompanied by another man, reportedly went to an apartment complex before dawn to look for Iverson's wife, Tawanna, and cousin, Shaun Bowman, who lives there. Neither was there, said Jones, who has lived in the apartment since March.

Jones declined to reveal what Iverson said or how he threatened him. Jones said Iverson had a black handgun but did not brandish it.

Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson told KYW-AM that Iverson allegedly had the gun inside his waistband. But Johnson noted, "A bulge could be anything."

Jones insisted he saw a gun. "I'm positive it was," he said.

Iverson's attorney, Tom Shuttleworth, declined comment Tuesday. Another Iverson attorney, Lawrence Woodward Jr., met with police on Monday.

"It's inappropriate for a lawyer to comment about a pending investigation. We have confidence in the legal system and we're going to let the process run its course," Shuttleworth said Tuesday.

Iverson, 27, the NBA Most Valuable Player in 2001, led basketball in scoring during the regular season, averaging 31.4 points. A three-time All-Star, he led the 76ers to the NBA Finals in 2001, their first appearance in 18 years. **AP**

MBA '5' gets big support

THE METROPOLITAN Basketball Association selection's stint in the 25th Jones Cup received a big boost yesterday after Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshop agreed to be the team's sponsor in the Taiwan tournament slated July 13-25.

Cebuana Lhuillier Gems general manager Danny Francisco made the announcement during a fellowship meeting with the players and coaching staff headed by Coach Francis Rodriguez of the Gems.

MBA Commissioner Chito Loyzaga encouraged the players to do their best.

The MBA selection will be competing against powerhouse teams from Russia, Australia, Japan, Canada, South Korea, China and host China Taipei. They will make their debut on Monday night against the Russians, represented by Lokomotive Novosibirsk.

Pressed for time, Rodriguez and deputies Nash Racela of LBC Batangas and Lawrence Chongson of Osaka Pangasinan have been conducting twice-a-day practices at the San Juan Gym.

Chongson bared that 6-foot-3 Kalani Ferreria of Osaka Pangasinan has been added to the team to add size to its point guard rotation.

Former MVPs Romel Adducul (Osaka Pangasinan), Alex Compton and Eddie Laure (LBC Batangas) and John Ferriols (RCPI Negros) will lead the 11-man team. Completing the roster are Jeffrey Flowers (Gilbey's Olongapo), Reynel Hugnatan, (RCPI Negros), Egay Echavez and Bruce Dacia (Cebuana Lhuillier) and Peter June Simon and Billy Mamaril (Professional Davao).

Roy Luarca

Asuela prevails

BACOLOD—Kiddie champion Ellan F. Asuela debuted in the 20-and-under bracket of the 2002 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship—Western Visayas leg by taking the division crown, a gold medal and the P5,000 top purse.

Asuela, a St. Joseph's High School sophomore, capped a six-game winning streak with a fierce 52-move draw in the 7-round Swiss system tournament to book 6.5 points.

Second-placer Theseus P. Benitez, a management junior at University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, cracked a tough Caro-Kann setup in 21 moves to beat former Shell kiddie standout Christian Espayos for the silver medal and P4,000 cash prize.

NL-AL All-Star game ends in 7-7 tie

NL All-Star Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants (middle) playfully picks up AL All-Star Torii Hunter of the Minnesota Twins after Hunter's catch robbed Bonds of a bonus home run in the first inning. AP

MILWAUKEE—Despite Barry Bonds homering and Torii Hunter making a spectacular catch, the All-Star game between the National and American Leagues finished in a 7-7 tie after 11 innings Tuesday when both teams ran out of pitchers.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, who lives in Milwaukee and ran the Brewers before becoming commissioner, made the ultimate decision to call the game after conferring with both managers.

The sellout crowd of 41,871 at Miller Park loudly chanted "Let them play!" and "Refund!" A few fans in right field threw bottles to protest the controversial decision.

"I want to take this opportunity to apologize to the fans," Selig said. "Given the health of the players, I had no choice.

"The decision was made because there were no players left, no pitchers left," he said. "This is not the ending I had hoped for. I was in a no-win situation."

Amid worries about a players' strike and steroids looming over the sport, baseball had hoped to put the focus back on the field. Instead, the abrupt halt may just have been the first work stoppage this season.

"This is terrible. These guys are going on strike and they're doing this now?" said Tim Dugan of Chicago. "We've been ripped off."

This was the second tie in All-Star history. The other one came in 1961 and was stopped by rain.

There was no Most Valuable Players picked. Unfortunate considering the award was renamed this week to honor Ted Williams, the Hall of Famer who died Friday.

An entertaining evening that began with Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Cal Ripken taking part in festivities to remember the game's past wound up with fans even more angry and upset about its present and future.

"With everything going on in baseball, I'm sure the fans were very upset," Hunter said.

Freddy Garcia struck out Benito Santiago with a runner on second base to end it, and players walked off to jeers. While players said they understood the decision, fans did not.

"They treated it like it was a meaningless game," said David Cuscuna of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. "They're telling the fans this game doesn't matter. Not to mention the $175 face value for tickets. It sends a lot of bad messages."

Said Selig: "This is a very regrettable situation."

It became apparent that a tie was possible after the top of the 11th when AL manager Joe Torre, NL manager Bob Brenly and umpire crew chief Gerry Davis went over to talk with Selig in the front row next to the first-base dugout.

At one point during the five-minute discussion, Selig threw up his arms.

After Luis Castillo flied out to start the bottom of the 11th, the stadium public-address announcer informed the crowd of the bad news, saying a tie would be declared if the NL didn't score in the bottom half. **AP**

Active Amateur tilt slated

LIPA City—The first Active Group Mid-Amateur Open, a tournament confined to top executives and businessmen, will be played next month at the Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club here.

"We are launching this event with goal of making it one of the country's top amateur events as well as one of our club majors," Mount Malarayat chair Tony Turalba said yesterday.

"On behalf of the organizing committee, I am inviting the eligible players to take part. Rest assured, they are going to find our all-weather courses Malipunyo, Makulot and Lubo as very challenging."

Completing the organizing committee membership are Mount Malarayat president Antonio "Toti" Turalba Jr., golf director Mike Carr and golf operations manager Jack Imperial.

"We are staging this championship from Aug. 14 to 16," Toti Turalba said. "This is open to amateur golfers who are from 30 to 54 years old. We will group them into four divisions based on handicap indexes.

Call Active Group's Noemi Delfin at 894-01-55 and Mount Malarayat's Tina Morales at (043) 756-79-32 for registration.

Rosales golf career blooms after return to family setup

JENNY (left) with brother Gerald serving as her caddie in file photo.

By Jong Arcano

LOS ANGELES–Two Top 10 finishes in her last three tournaments topped by a big finish in last week's US Open have caused a big turnaround for Jenny Rosales' campaign in the LPGA Tour.

The resurgence may be partly credited to the family setup where her brother Gerald temporarily took over as caddie and mother Lourdes doubled up as chef de cuisine and caretaker of Jenny's dog, Asia.

But if there's any factor that is bringing the best out of Jenny, her swing coach Bong Lopez believes it's her ward's firm belief that she can still become as big a star as Annika Sorenstam and Karrie Webb.

"That mindset seems to have helped her regain the crucial elements of her game which are consistency and power," said Lopez who flew back here from Kansas after helping Jenny get her biggest paycheck ever of $78,016 (about P4 million) for sharing seventh in the Open.

Lopez said that Jenny can now hold her own against the stars in tough courses like the Open venue (Prairie Dunes) because the accuracy of her driver and irons is back. Only Pak hit longer than Jenny in the Open final round's driving stats.

The challenge of managing her own career seems to have turned the tide for Jenny as well. Rosales is said to have cut ties with the International Management Group and although she misses the pampering of an entourage which handles practically all of her tournament needs, the 23-year-old is showing she–and her family–can work things out.

"Going back to the family setup, I think has transformed Jenny into a more responsible player," said Lopez.

Jenny, who has zoomed to No. 30 in the LPGA money list, will no longer team up with Gerald starting this week since Gerald is set to fly back to Manila and prepare for the final half of the Asian Tour starting next month.

With her confidence so high, Lopez said Jenny can still sustain her hot form whoever is carrying the bag.

Valdez rules Paga June tourney

TOTI Valdez posted a net 70 to rule the emerged Philippine American Golf Association June monthly tournament recently at the Malarayat Golf Club in Lipa City, Batangas.

Paga president Jimmy Zeñarosa said that lowest gross honor went to Emil Alviar, who scored a 5-over-par 77.

The complete list of winners:

Overall Champions

Alviar, Emil 77 (4-73) low gross; Valdez, Toti 95 (25-70) low net

Members Division

Class A–Del Rosario, Benjamin 85 (14-71) champion; Torrefranca, Edgar 79 (7-72) 1st runner-up; Chung, Johnny 88 (14-74) 2nd runner-up

Class B–Suzuki, Yoshitoshi 96 (24-72) champion; Thornton, John 90 (18-72) 1st runner-up; Adajar, Roger 93 (21-72) 2nd runner-up

Class C–Almeda, Ezer 111 (36-75) champion; Quizon, Mags 100 (24-76) 1st runner-up; Padrigon, Bert 101 (24-77) 2nd runner-up

Guests Division

Blancada, Domeng 73 (3-70) champion; Flora, Boy 85 (15-72) 1st runner-up; Pascual, Teddy 82 (10-72) 2nd runner-up

Ladies Division

Tolentino, Dominica 126 (50-76) champion; Thornton, Jocelyn 134 (50-84) 1st runner-up

German sprinter seizes Tour lead; Lance lurks

REIMS, France—German sprint spc alist Erik Zabel took the overall lead in t' our de France after the third stage througl Champagne region, but he admits it's t early to celebrate with three-time champion Lance Armstrong lurking close behind.

ZABEL

Telekom rider Zabel, who took control of the leader's yellow jersey after a second-place finish in Tuesday's stage, said Armstrong's U.S. Postal team is a top threat to his lead heading into the team time trial on Wednesday.

"We're going to leave the champagne tonight for the coaching staff of Telekom, out of respect for tomorrow's team time trial. No champagne for me tonight," said Zabel, who finished just behind stage winner Robbie McEwen of Australia.

"U.S. Postal seem to have a great chance of winning the time trial, so holding on to the yellow jersey seems uncertain," Zabel said. He took the yellow jersey from surprising two-day leader Rubens Bertogliati of Switzerland.

Armstrong, the favorite to win a fourth straight Tour victory, kept to his strategy on Tuesday: keep pace in the flat stages and focus on the time-trial and mountain stages that are his strengths. He placed 33rd in the stage, slipping a notch to fifth place overall - 17 seconds behind Zabel.

The 30-year-old Texan cruised easily through the flat wheatfields of eastern France on the 174.5-kilometer (108.19-mile) trek from Metz to Reims, all part of his plan to step up the pace in the harder mountain stages where he often leaves rivals behind.

"If you had offered me this scenario before the Tour, I would have signed for it right away," USPS team leader Johan Bruyneel said.

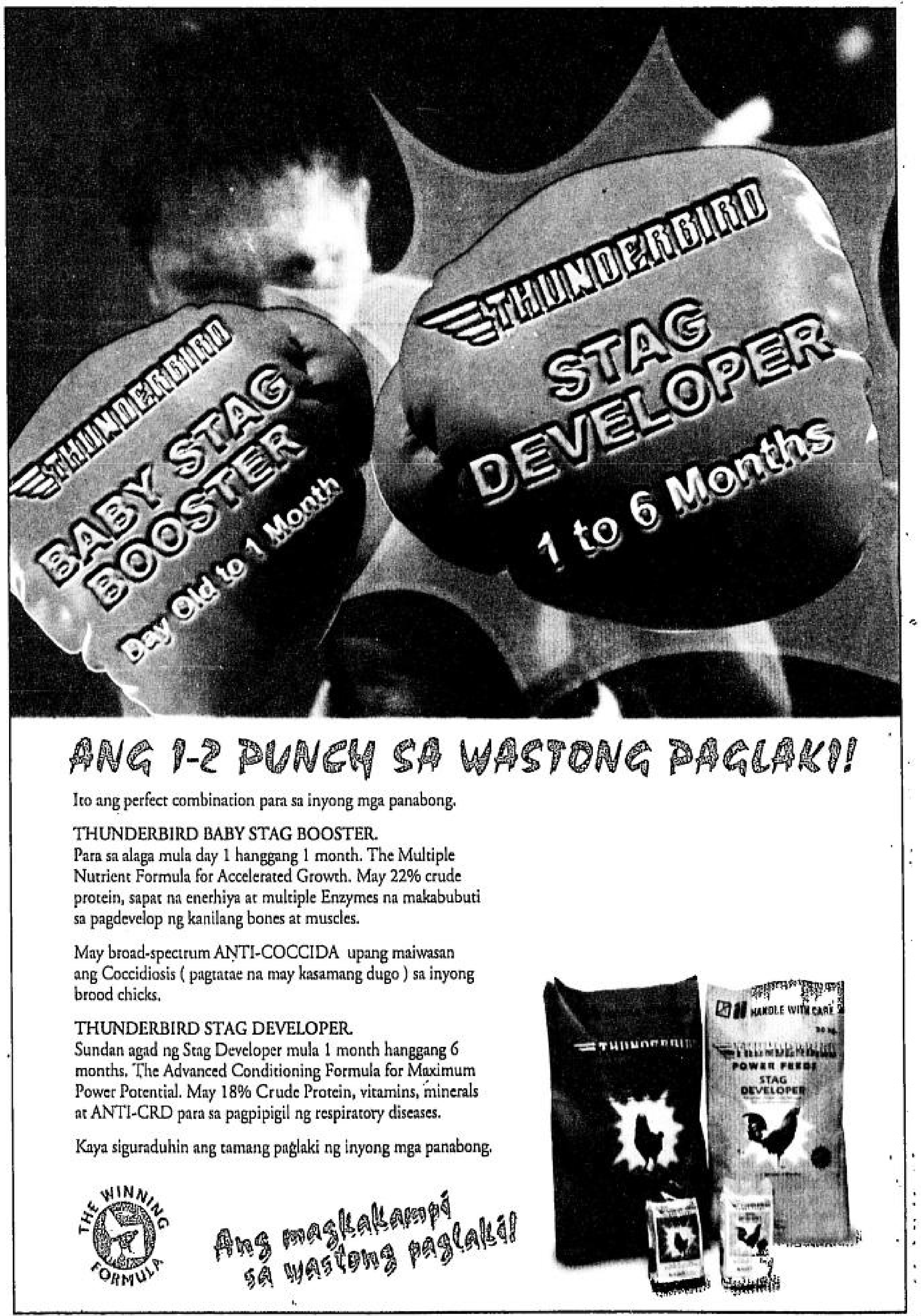
The USPS team is one of the favorites to win Wednesday's fourth stage, a 67.5-kilometer (41.85-mile) team time trial from Epernay to the historic town of Chateau-Thierry.

Tuesday's trek took riders on a road through the World War I battlefield of Verdun, in the heart of a pro-American region and the town in which Armstrong won his first Tour stage in 1993 - the year he won the World Championship.

Thousands of fans turned out to cheer the riders under overcast skies. In a region that often honors U.S. soldiers who died here, many fans waved American flags or team jerseys of the USPS riders.

"There are a lot of people in this region who would love to see an American win the Tour again," said Alcide Leclerc, 70, of Verdun, on a roadside as he waited for the riders to pass by.

McEwen won the stage Tuesday in 4 hours, 13 minutes, 37 seconds, thrusting his clenched fists into the air as he crossed the finish line in a sprint just ahead of Zabel. Armstrong came in as part of a pack of 185 other riders that clocked the same time as McEwen. **AP**



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Race 3—1. Flying Carpet 2. Sabik/Anahaw 3. Black Ijhay 4. Kentucky News
Race 4—1. Best of Ocean 2. Like A Prince 3. Harvesting Game/Headliner
Race 5—1. Roppongi 2. Queen Matawe 3. Pro Bono 4. Sham Sham
Race 6—1. Kay Gee Em Ey/Tumataginting 2.Powerhouse 3. Brazen Truth 4. Lorna 5. Bagoba
Race 7—1. Joaqi 2. Ocean Friend 3, Roman Dance 4. Hong Kong Treasure 5. Turkish Delight
Race 8—1. Southern Skies 2. Señor Perlor 3. Doctor Steve
Race 9—1. Flying Fortress 2. Respect the Ace 3. Sweet Topic 4. Kingair 5. Gold Honors 6. Arch Rival

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Cris Villaflores and Honorio Zapata conspired for a 10-under-par 62 to win the 1st Seniors pro-am golf championship at the Valley course. Also today in 1993, Ramontito Garcia shot a 2-over-par 74 to bag Class A honors in the ninth leg of the Johnnie Walker Golf Series at the Cebu Country Club.

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RP jins leaving Sunday for World Cup meet in Tokyo

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE taekwondo team seeing action in the Busan Asian Games is set to compete in the World Cup in Tokyo, Japan, as part of its intensive training for the September Asiad.

Bannered by Olympian Donald Geisler, the 16-man national squad will leave this Sunday for the competition which will measure the taekwondojins' readiness for the Asiad.

The team had trained and competed in Korea and Turkey early this year.

Meanwhile, the Philippines won 13 golds, eight silvers and eight bronzes to capture the overall championship in the 2002 World Taekwondo Festival-5th Korean Open last July 2-5 in Chung Cehong, South Korea.

The crack squad, made up of regional champions from Batangas, Laguna, Iloilo, Bacolod, Ilocos and Cavite who are 10 to 28 years old, ruled the kyorugi or the sparring event, winning 12 of its total gold haul. The other gold came from the Compulsory Poomse or the demonstration event.

Delegation head Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chief of the Manila Sports Council, said most of the gold medalists came from the capital city and are products of the Manila Youth Games.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza also promised to give cash incentives to the 24 medalists when they pay a courtesy call tomorrow at the City Hall.

Leading the Big City bets were sisters Rotrice and Rochelle Lavalan, who won golds in the female young junior (12 years and below) finweight and lightweight categories. Paolo Angeles dominated the men's young junior light welterweight class.

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

7 cops who sacked squatters sacked

By Alcuin Papa

FOR their campaign against professional squatters in the city, seven Quezon City policemen were slapped yesterday with a three-month suspension by their superiors.

The seven policemen were identified as Supt. Valentin Santacera, chief of the Lagro Police Station; Chief Insp. Eddie Arajil, SPO2s Romeo Pascual and Pedro Bernabe; SPO1 Rolando Cristobal; and PO2s Edgar Lopez and James Bugho.

All seven are set to appeal their suspension before the National Police Commission after the National Capital Region Police Office-Internal Affairs Service ordered their suspension recently.

The seven said they were denied due process.

The suspension came about after a complaint by Marilyn Hepe, whom the police said was illegally occupying a lot owned by a certain architect named Dominguez on Yen Street, Phase 8, North Fairview, Quezon City.

Dominguez was said to have first complained to the policemen about the squatters on his lot in May.

According to the suspended cops, they conducted a demolition of squatter shanties in their area of responsibility three months ago based on the orders of Central Police District Director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte.

Santacera's men also arrested Hepe, Raymundo Valenzuela and Roden Baubutin during the demolition.

Shortly after, Hepe filed a complaint against the policemen before the NCRPO, which ordered the suspension of the seven.

"We risk our lives for our duties. We were the ones who arrested violators of the law yet it seems we were the ones at fault here," Santacera said.

Meanwhile, a security guard was seriously injured when he was shot by a fellow security guard the other night in Quezon City after the two argued over duty shifts.

Victim Joseph Albino received treatment at the East Avenue Medical Center for a gunshot wound in his body.

Operatives of the Kamuning Police Station are now looking for the suspect, identified only as a certain "Sanchez." Both guards are assigned to the bus terminal of the Quezon Liner.

The incident occurred at around 7:35 p.m. inside the guard's quarters of the bus terminal located along Monte de Piedad Street, Barangay Immaculate Concepcion, Quezon City.

Before the shooting, the two had argued over the hours they had logged in during their duty shifts.

'Water safe'

THE RAINS and floods have not contaminated the drinking water in Metro Manila, the health department assured yesterday.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit also said the rains have not caused an outbreak of any diseases.

"Except for the increased cases of colds and fungal infection due to the floods, we are happy to report that there has been no outbreak of disease," he said.

But he warned people about the possible outbreak of dengue due to stagnant water pools left by the rains.

Even the drinking water in evacuation camps is safe as pipes and transmission lines leading to the camps are regularly monitored, Dayrit said. *Armand Nocum*

They continue crying at Payatas

By Agnes E. Donato

TWO years after hundreds of scavengers were buried and killed in an avalanche of garbage in the Payatas dumpsite, survivors and relatives of the victims continue to cry for justice.

Yesterday, members of the July 10 Payatas Victims Organization (J10PVO) and urban poor group Kadamay braved the rains and marched to Mendiola to press the Macapagal government for justice.

"In her one and a half years in Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo has not addressed the call of the tragedy victims. Instead, she has further pushed the Filipino people into a bigger tragedy that are poverty, violence, unemployment and hunger," J10PVO president Delia Badion.

THEY/ A22

RESCUERS dug up victim from muddy grave.

FILE PHOTO

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Per DTI NCR Permit No 1948 Series of 2002

Violators beg to dispose of pirated videos first

By Jerome Aning

VENDORS of pirated video and audio disks in Quiapo, Manila and in Greenhills, San Juan are seeking a dialogue with Videogram Regulatory Board Chair Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. to ask for a grace period.

They wanted to dispose of their remaining pirated goods and recover their investments.

Last Saturday, the VRB raided the Quiapo barter center and seized 1.7 million pieces of pirated audio and movie compact disks and digital video disks worth P85 million from about 50 stalls.

In a press statement, Danny Natangcop, president of the Alpha Phi Omega Greenhills Traders and Alumni Association, said most sellers of pirated VCDs and CDs are poor and do not have a regular source of income.

"Many of us are Muslims who came here in Manila to avoid the conflict in Mindanao," Natangcop said.

"We are forced to do this because it's the only way we know how to earn fast money with just a small investment," said Apogtaa executive secretary Fatima Emma Caye.

Mohamman Tangguti, head of the Muslim Barterers Associations said the vendors are "victims of the rich capitalists who owned the pirating machines."

"We promise not to sell pirated CDs anymore but the government should at least help us recover our investment, or we and our families will starve," Tangguti added.

Natangcop said they are "very willing" to cooperate with the VRB in fighting piracy, but they also want to know how the VRB can help them find an alternative source of livelihood.

A PERPLEXING flood of pirated videos.

MMDA: 'We are short of roadways'

By Leila Salaverria

THE METRO Manila Development Authority is stepping up efforts to lick the festering traffic problem and is tackling the issue on two fronts.

Citing a "shortage of usable roads," MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said he is considering asking the help of local governments to persuade residents of private subdivisions to open their villages to traffic to decongest the streets.

He also said that the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP), or color-coding scheme, will not be abolished anytime soon, although the MMDA is open to the idea.

"We are seriously considering scrapping the color-coding but it will take sometime," said Fernando on Tuesday's Bulong Pulungan forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

According to Traffic Director Ernesto Camarillo, the MMDA is reviewing the color-coding scheme because it may have outlived its purpose.

"It's been a long time (since the scheme was implemented)," he said. "It has to be re-examined."

In an interview yesterday, Camarillo said the UVVRP was implemented at a time when several major constructions on main thoroughfares were being carried out. He said the UVVRP was meant to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

But now that these projects have been finished, Camarillo said the scheme might be unnecessary.

The UVVRP bans private vehicles on main roads once a week, depending on the last digit of their license plates.

Fernando earlier said that the removal of obstructions on the sidewalks would be a big step toward alleviating the traffic problem in Metro Manila.

"We have to clear the side streets and secondary roads," he said. "We are short of usable roadways."

On Monday, Fernando said he would be seeking the help of city and municipal councils to open the streets of private subdivisions to outside traffic.

Asked about what the MMDA would do after officials of subdivisions opposed his proposal to open private roads to traffic, Fernando said he would be using "the power of the local government units."

Barangay Forbes Park Chair Jose Concepcion earlier said village residents might be put in danger if their roads were opened for public use. He cited kidnapping as one of their concerns, as well as pollution.

But Fernando remained optimistic, saying he would "never underestimate people's capacity to heed to reason."

He said he believes the local councils would be open to his plan, adding that it is well within the MMDA's power to decide on whether or not to open the roads to the public.

The MMDA chair added motorists should be made to use existing roadways that are underutilized.

On the problem of public utility drivers who tend to ignore loading and unloading areas, Fernando said the MMDA is considering allotting a specific lane for their use, so they can stop anytime they want.

"We're looking at giving public vehicles a lane, and the whole stretch of the road would be bus stops," Fernando said.

Fernando called his proposal "an educated guess." He said the plan is practical because some passengers tend to ask drivers to drop them off anywhere.

The MMDA chair added he wants to help public utility vehicles because more people make use of them.

"We'll give public transportation priority on the road because they carry more passengers, but not to the (detriment) of private (motorists)," he said.

Commuters and motorists have perennially complained about vehicles that unload passengers in the middle of the roads, impeding traffic flow.

City Hall clarifies Mercury contract

By Jerome Aning

"A REHASHED charge filed by a perennial election loser."

This was how the city lawyer of Manila described the latest graft case former councilor Pablo "Chiqui" Ocampo IV filed against Mayor Lito Atienza regarding a medicine supply contract for the Ospital ng Maynila.

City Legal Officer Melchor Monsod said the contract signed by city hall with the Mercury Drug Corp. complies with the requirements of the law, despite Ocampo's allegations that it was onerous.

Ocampo revived the year-old controversy involving Atienza last week after he obtained a Commission on Audit report dated May 14, 2001 which said that the agreement was disadvantageous to the city.

The former councilor re-filed the case at the Office of the Ombudsman last week.

The COA report showed that on June 18, 1999, the city entered into a contract with Mercury for the supply and delivery of all the drug and medicine requirements of the city-run OsMa. Under the contract, Mercury was also allowed to put up and operate a dispensing unit in the premises of the OsMa.

According to COA, the contract unjustly gave Mercury free space and other utilities courtesy of the city.

Monsod explained that Mercury does not commercially operate a drug store inside OsMa and only dispenses medicine in accordance with the supply contract.

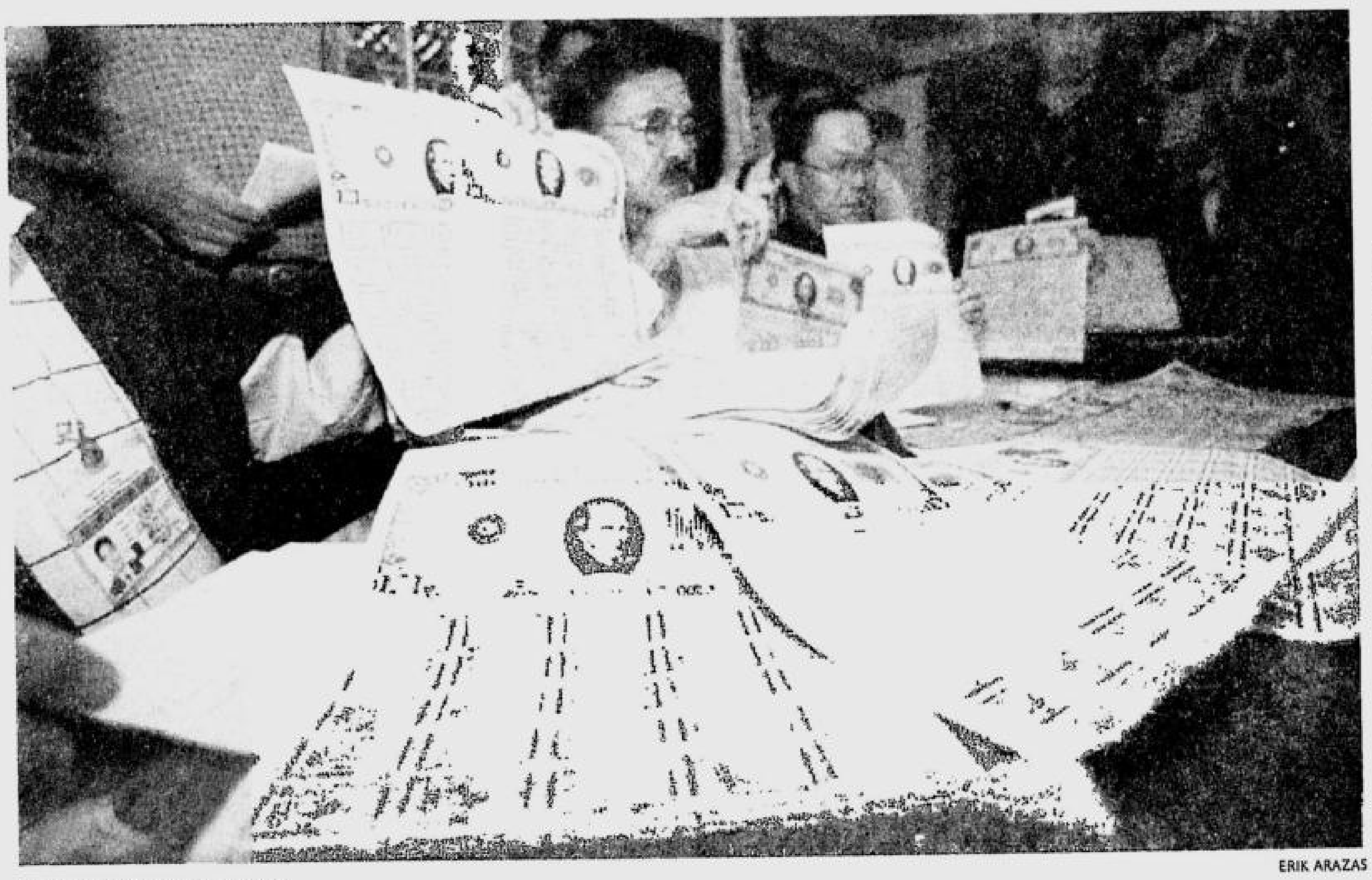
He said the contract, which underwent a public bidding, is "a reform measure introduced by the mayor to eliminate corruption, red tape and pilferage" in OsMa's drugs and medicine procurement system.

"Before, public funds were spent for the purchase of medicines, but there was almost always no medicine available at the OsMa pharmacy for OsMa patients," the Monsod said.

Now, patients "have direct access to the inventory of medicines being (sold) by Mercury so there is no shortage of medicine," he added.

He said that only medicines that were actually dispensed to patients and used by them would be paid for.

"This means there is no wastage due to expired medicines, and it totally eliminated the opportunities for pilferage and graft," Monsod explained.



ERIK ARAZAS

STAGGERING STRIKE

This is just part of the 33 boxes of fake U.S. Federal Treasury notes confiscated during a raid in Parañaque City on Tuesday. NBI Deputy Director Fermin Nasol presented the seized bogus notes, worth hundreds of million dollars, to media.

Cops hunting 4 cops who killed ex-lawman

By Nelson Flores

A POLICE manhunt is on for four policemen who killed a former law enforcer in Antipolo City Tuesday night.

Police identified the victim as Felix Medina Jr., 46, a former Antipolo City police station personnel and resident of Sitio Patnubay, Barangay San Luis, Antipolo City. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Antipolo City District Hospital due to gunshot wounds in the head and body.

Medina's alleged assailants were identified as SPO1 Edmundo Bruno, PO3 Sherwin Sumile, PO1 Jeffe Silva, and PO1 Enrique Cadungog, all members of the 4th Philippine National Police Regional Narcotics Office based in Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba, Laguna. They fled after taking the victim to the hospital, police said.

Police investigation showed that the incident happened shortly before 8 p.m. along Marcos Highway in Sitio Pandayan, Barangay Inarawan while Medina was walking on his way home.

Witnesses told police investigators that the policemen alighted from a white Nissan Sentra car with registration plates UHV 611 and without any provocation shot the victim twice. The victim was unarmed.

SPO1 Errol Era, Antipolo City police station desk officer, said the suspects took the victim to the hospital, left him there and fled.

He added that prior to the incident the policemen presented themselves to the Antipolo City police station and informed them about their anti-drug operation in Barangay Inarawan.

PO2 Manuel Padlan, case investigator, said murder charges would be filed against the four policemen. He noted that the suspects' attempt to legitimize the incident by coordinating their operation and later rushing the victim to the hospital were obviously meant to cover their intent and the crime.

Padlan further said that based on the testimony of a number of witnesses there was really an apparent intent on the part of the suspects to kill the victim. He also rejected the notion that the victim was a drug pusher saying that there is no proof to that conjecture.

Police checking if mother killed own kid

THE QUEZON City police is investigating the death yesterday of 5-year-old Julyanne Fernandez, who was said to have died from beatings she received from her own mother.

Fernandez died at the National Children's Hospital after she complained of stomach pains, said PO2 Joseph Madrid, of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit.

Police are now questioning the mother, Lanie Fernandez, 35, of Manunggal Street, Barangay Tatalon, Quezon City.

Fernandez told the police she spanked her daughter when she found out that the youngster had been playing in the rain and wading in floodwaters.

After the spanking, the girl experienced stomach pains at around 9 a.m. yesterday, PO2 Madrid said.

He said when the child started to turn pale, her mother took her to the hospital where she died.

An autopsy will be conducted on the girl to determine the cause of death, Madrid said.

Once police are sure that the girl died as a result of the beating, they will file the appropriate charges against the mother, he said.

They continue crying . . .

(From page A21)

The trial of the one-billion peso damage suit which the J1OPVO filed before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court against former Mayor Ismael Mathay and former Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Jejomar Binay has yet to start.

The Payatas survivors and victims' relatives filed the case through the Public Interest Law Center, claiming that the tragedy took place because of "negligence on the part of the QC government and the MMDA." Also named as respondents in the suit were the land owners TOFEMI Realty Inc. and Meteor Company and the garbage collector, REN Transport.

Alit claims course records are complete

BUREAU of Jail Management and Penology officer-in-charge Arturo Alit shrugged off allegations that he had no records that he completed his Officers Senior Executive Course (OSEC), a requisite before being promoted to senior superintendent.

He said if his records at the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) are not available, they could have been misplaced and, eventually, would be found.

Alit said his application for equivalence to OSCE was approved upon the recommendation of the academic board of PPSC, pursuant to the resolution of the board of trustees of the college dated March 23, 1994. Dr. Cicero Campos, PPSC president, confirmed this in a letter to Alit dated Dec. 21, 1995.

'JoeCon abused mandate'

A GROUP of candidates for barangay posts in Forbes Park has hit incumbent chairperson Jose Concepcion for allegedly using "questionable and unfair tactics" concerning the upcoming elections.

In a letter sent to the Commission on Elections dated July 1, Enrique Lagdameo, Concepcion's opponent for the barangay chairperson post, and seven others who are running for kagawad with Lagdameo scored Concepcion for sending letters to his constituents informing the latter of their precinct numbers.

Concepcion is again running for chairperson of the posh barangay.

The complainants alleged that the purpose of Concepcion's letters was "to solicit the addressees' vote and/or support in the upcoming barangay elections."

They said that the papers and envelopes used for sending the letters were government supplies given to Forbes Park.

"It is clear that Mr. Concepcion has evidently overstepped his mandate as barangay captain and arrogantly arrogated unto himself the functions/obligations of the Commission on Elections," Lagdameo's group said in their letter. "It is indubitably evident that Mr. Concepcion has taken undue advantage of his position...by misusing government funds for personal gain," it further read.

Asked for his reaction, Concepcion said the letter was an act of politicking on the part of his opponents.

"It's all politics," he said.

He said he was working with Comelec when he sent the contested letters to the residents, adding that he was doing a service for his constituents.

"Many of the residents are so happy (about the letters). If all the barangays did that, there wouldn't be chaos in the polling stations," he said.

Concepcion added that he was willing to be investigated about the matter.

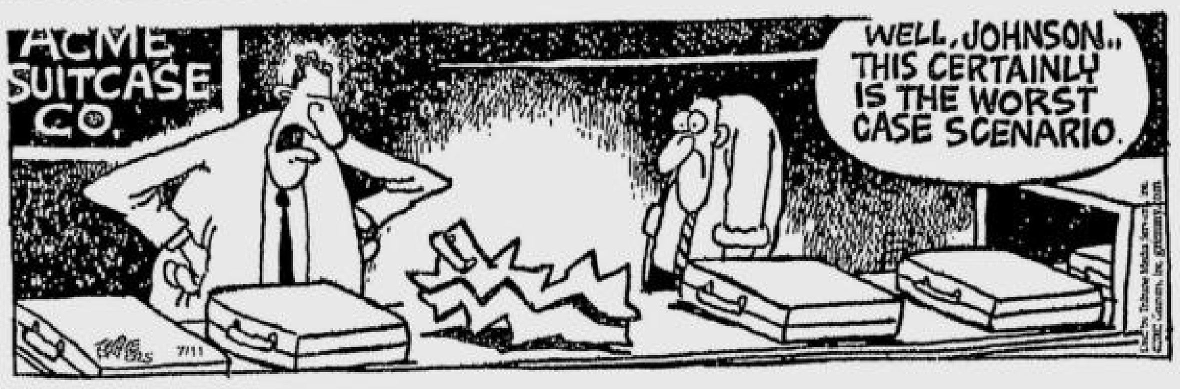
"Let them investigate it," he said.

Concepcion also showed a letter dated June 5, but this one endorsed him as barangay chair. It was signed by prominent persons like Jaime and Bea Zobel de Ayala, Jaime and Lizzie Zobel de Ayala, Imelda Cojuangco, Delfin and Cheche Lazaro, Ambassadors Bienvenido Tantoco and Jesus Tambunting, Diosdado Macapagal Jr. and Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste, among others.

For his part, Lagdameo said his group wrote the letter to inform the Comelec about the practices, and added that they never aimed for Concepcion's disqualification.

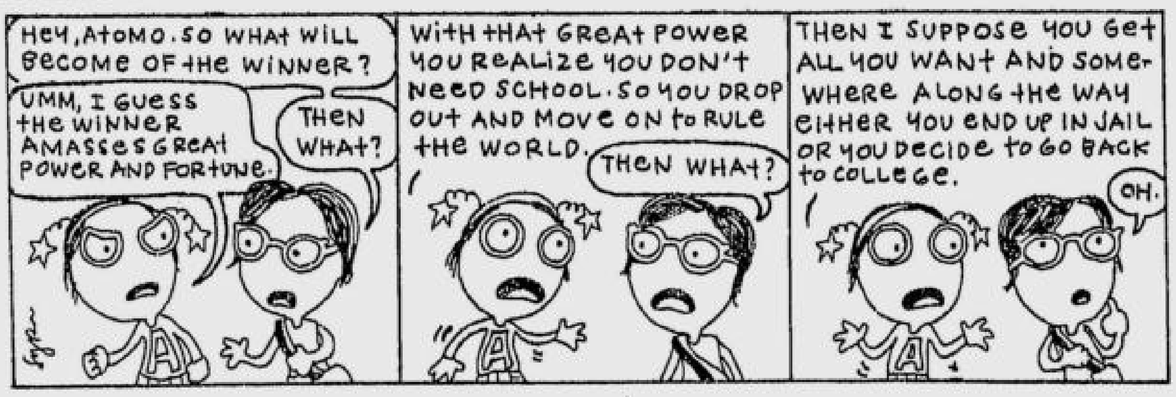
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ACME SUITCASE CO.
WELL, JOHNSON.. THIS CERTAINLY IS THE WORST CASE SCENARIO.
7/11

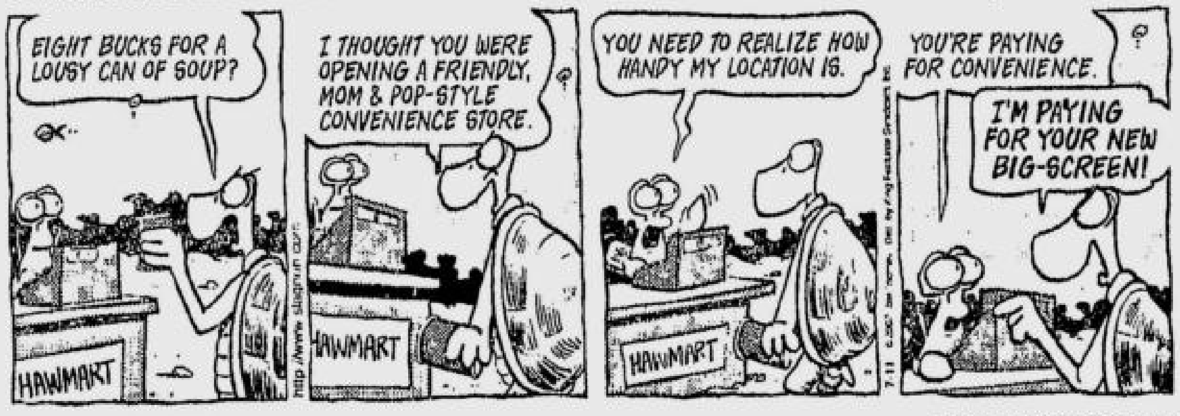
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, ATOMO. SO WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE WINNER?
UMM, I GUESS THE WINNER AMASSES GREAT POWER AND FORTUNE.
THEN WHAT?
WITH THAT GREAT POWER YOU REALIZE YOU DON'T NEED SCHOOL. SO YOU DROP OUT AND MOVE ON TO RULE THE WORLD.
THEN WHAT?
THEN I SUPPOSE YOU GET ALL YOU WANT AND SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY EITHER YOU END UP IN JAIL OR YOU DECIDE TO GO BACK TO COLLEGE.
OH.

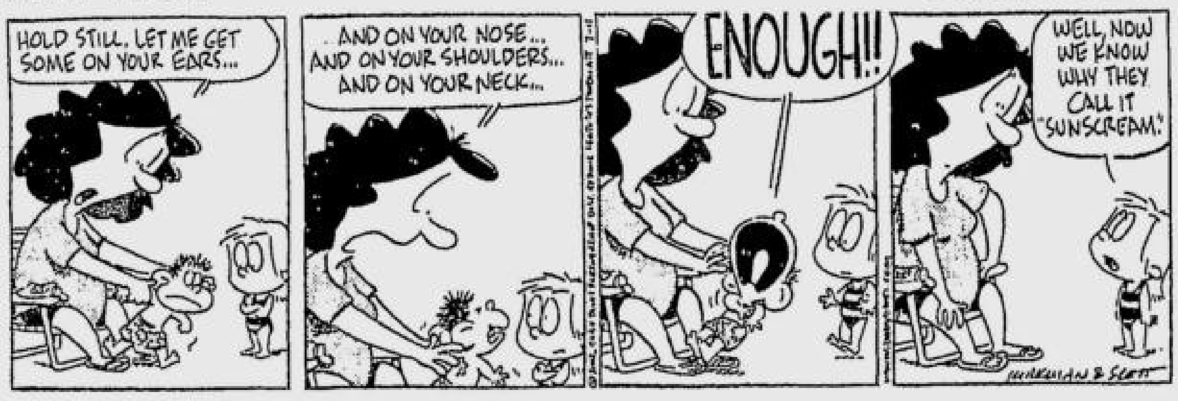
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


EIGHT BUCKS FOR A LOUSY CAN OF SOUP?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE OPENING A FRIENDLY, MOM & POP-STYLE CONVENIENCE STORE.
YOU NEED TO REALIZE HOW HANDY MY LOCATION IS.
YOU'RE PAYING FOR CONVENIENCE.
I'M PAYING FOR YOUR NEW BIG-SCREEN!
HAWMART

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOLD STILL. LET ME GET SOME ON YOUR EARS...
...AND ON YOUR NOSE... AND ON YOUR SHOULDERS... AND ON YOUR NECK...
ENOUGH!!
WELL, NOW WE KNOW WHY THEY CALL IT "SUNSCREAM."
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Richie Sambora, Sela Ward, Yul Brynner, Georgio Armani

Happy Birthday: Your insight into future trends will enable you to make good choices. You'll have a great need to interact with others and will do whatever is necessary to bring unity and harmony. You have what it takes to accomplish your goals, but if you become lazy you may fall short of your expectations. Your numbers are 13, 19, 27, 30, 38, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Special events will lead to romance if you're single and good friendships if you aren't. Your youthful approach to life will attract all sorts of interest from people who could help you further your goals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Things may be a little disruptive at home today. Be practical, giving and sensitive to what is going on around you. Think about making changes to your home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be charming, bright and entertaining, creating the possibility of new friendships that have plenty to offer. Don't let the distance deter you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be right on top of your game. You can make gains and should be prepared to present your ideas to everyone. You have a lot to offer so get started.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Today is the perfect time to sell yourself and your ideas to influential people. Opportunities will open up in the strangest places and through the most unusual people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may be put in an awkward position today. Don't let your personal life interfere with your goals. Be sure not to divulge secret information. Someone is likely to misinterpret you intentionally.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be easygoing and generous today. Your trust and loyalty will win you points. Your sophisticated way of dealing with issues will result in support from respected individuals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may be feeling a little anxious today. Don't jump to conclusions without having all the facts. Channel your energy into self-improvement projects.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will move mountains today. Get involved in competitive sports or join a fitness club. Your love of excitement and adventure will lead to interesting events and new friendships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is money to be made if you take the time to investigate the possibilities. This will be a good day to form a partnership with someone who can contribute to your ideas and your goals.

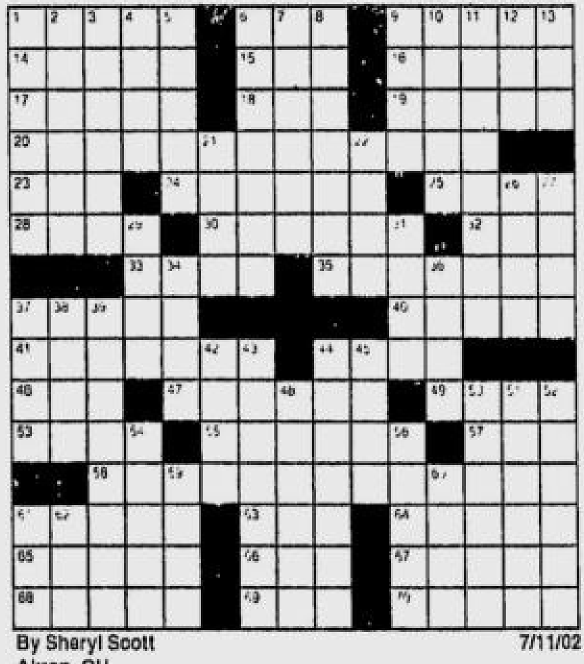
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's time to lighten up. Do something special with someone you enjoy spending time with. Make an effort to eliminate the things that make you sad. Join groups that will promote new friendships.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Whether you are working at being the best that you can be or improving your health or your professional goals, today is the day to make headway. Call people who can help you.

Birthday Baby: Freedom is important to you and you will protect it at all costs. You will have very unique and original ideas. You will be a free-spirited individual throughout life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com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By Sheryl Scott
Akron, OH

7/11/02

ACROSS
1 Yogi of the Yankees
6 Expressions of satisfaction
9 Shrine at Mecca
14 Shaquille of the NBA
15 "Ulalume" author
16 Woody or Steve
17 1974 canine classic
18 Easy dessert?
19 Poised for action
20 1985 Hughes film, with "The"
23 __ on (incite)
24 Chanteuse Kitt
25 Slot fillers
28 Soaked in anil
30 Begrudge
32 Extinct ostrichlike bird
33 Film spool
35 Marine catch
37 With 40A, 1991 Cronenberg film
40 See 37A
41 Enmity
44 Trajectories
46 Thumbs down in a word
47 Taiwan's capital
49 Slope apparatus
53 Mailed
55 Lined up
57 NASA's ISS partner
58 1933 Cukor film
61 Clan
63 Perform
64 Block of metal
65 Goes backpacking
66 Holy smokes!
67 False alarm
68 Critic Roger
69 Golfer Ernie
70 Tear into strips

DOWN
1 Moved up and down
2 Vitality
3 Play the wrong suit
4 Indian prince
5 The same
6 Clothing
7 Lifting equipment
8 Churns as if boiling
9 Economist Marx
10 Native Alaskan language
11 Montgomery man
12 Four-poster or cradle
13 Some
21 Passenger's payment
22 Walking stick
26 Pear choice
27 Over-the-shoulder band
29 Comic Carey
31 Body powder
34 Revise for publication
36 Bankrupt
37 Pen points
38 __ vera
39 Region of the Yukon
42 Reposed
43 Ancestry
44 Ventilates
45 Civil disorder
48 Part of UPS
50 Mendicant
51 On land
52 Squealed
54 Rome's river
56 Shortstop Walt
59 Cozy home
60 Fraction of a ruler
61 Definite article
62 Tease

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

C	I	T	E	■	F	L	E	D	■	W	A	I	S	T
A	G	O	G	■	A	O	N	E	■	E	R	N	I	E
L	O	N	G	■	T	A	G	S	■	T	E	A	S	E
F	R	E	N	C	H	F	R	I	E	S	■	B	A	N
■	■	■	O	L	E	■	■	G	N	U	■	S	L	Y
B	E	L	G	I	A	N	E	N	D	I	V	E	■	■
U	R	I	■	O	D	O	R	■	S	T	I	N	T	S
M	I	S	S	■	■	W	I	N	■	■	S	T	A	Y
P	E	T	R	E	L	■	C	O	M	A	■	I	N	N
■	■	P	O	L	I	S	H	S	A	U	S	A	G	E
T	A	R	■	L	A	T	■	■	S	T	U	■	■	■
R	P	I	■	I	R	I	S	H	C	O	F	F	E	E
U	N	C	A	P	■	F	L	E	A	■	F	I	L	L
S	E	E	P	S	■	L	E	E	R	■	E	R	A	S
T	A	S	T	E	■	E	D	D	A	■	R	E	N	E

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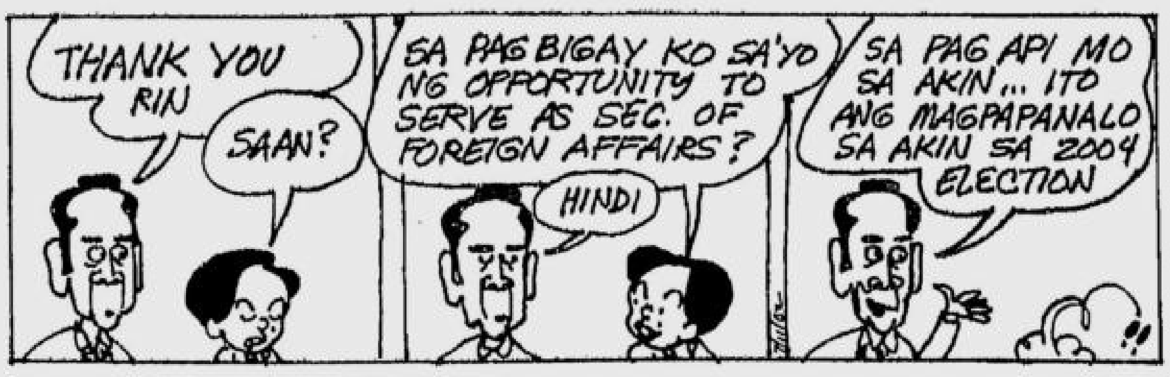
7/11/02

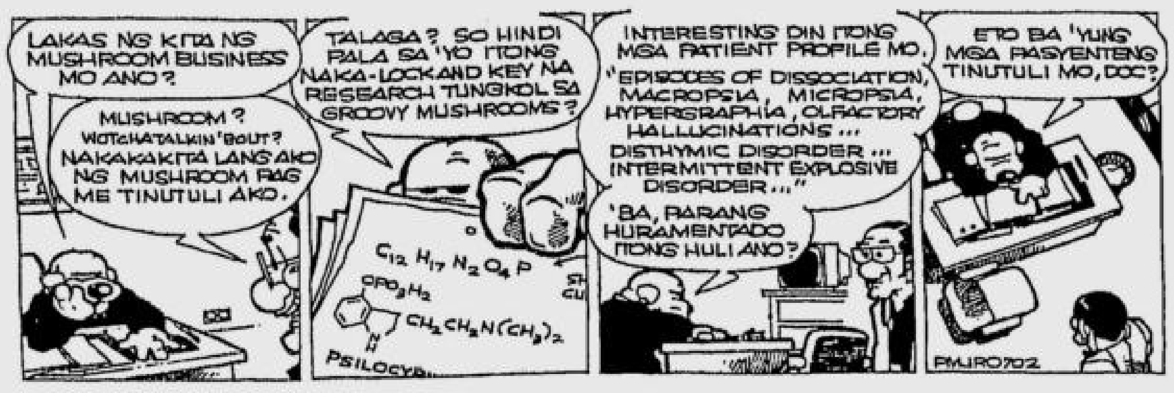
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


THANK YOU RIN
SAAN?
SA PAG BIGAY KO SA'YO NG OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS SEC. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS?
HINDI
SA PAG API MO SA AKIN... ITO ANG MAGPAPANALO SA AKIN SA 2004 ELECTION
!!

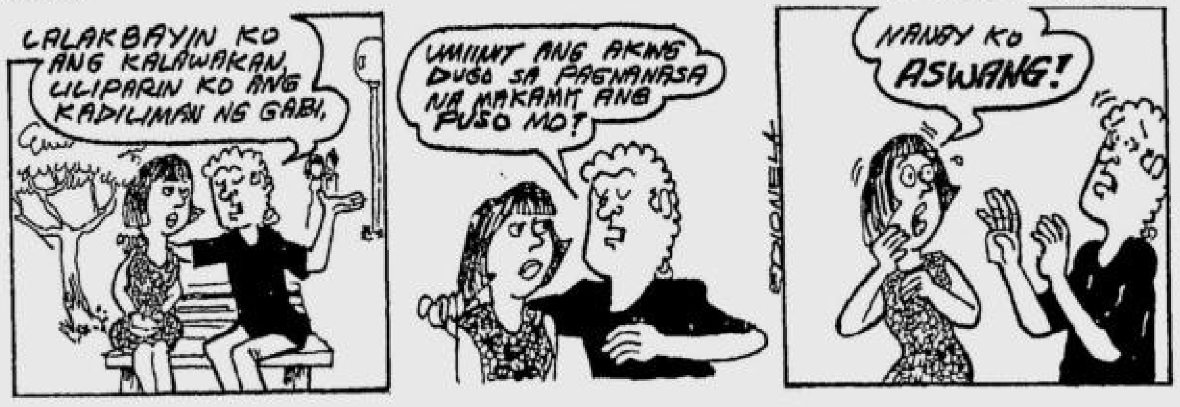
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


LAKAS NG KITA NG MUSHROOM BUSINESS MO ANO?
MUSHROOM? WOTCHATALKIN'BOUT? NAKAKAKITA LANG AKO NG MUSHROOM PAG ME TINUTULI AKO.
TALAGA? SO HINDI PALA SA 'YO ITONG NAKA-LOCK AND KEY NA RESEARCH TUNGKOL SA GROOVY MUSHROOMS?
C12 H17 N2 O4 P
OPO3H2
CH2CH2N(CH3)2
PSILOCYB
INTERESTING DIN ITONG MGA PATIENT PROFILE MO. "EPISODES OF DISSOCIATION, MACROPSIA, MICROPSIA, HYPERGRAPHIA, OLFACTORY HALLUCINATIONS... DISTHYMIC DISORDER... INTERMITTENT EXPLOSIVE DISORDER..."
'BA, PARANG HURAMENTADO ITONG HULI ANO?
ETO BA 'YUNG MGA PASYENTENG TINUTULI MO, DOC?
PMJR0702

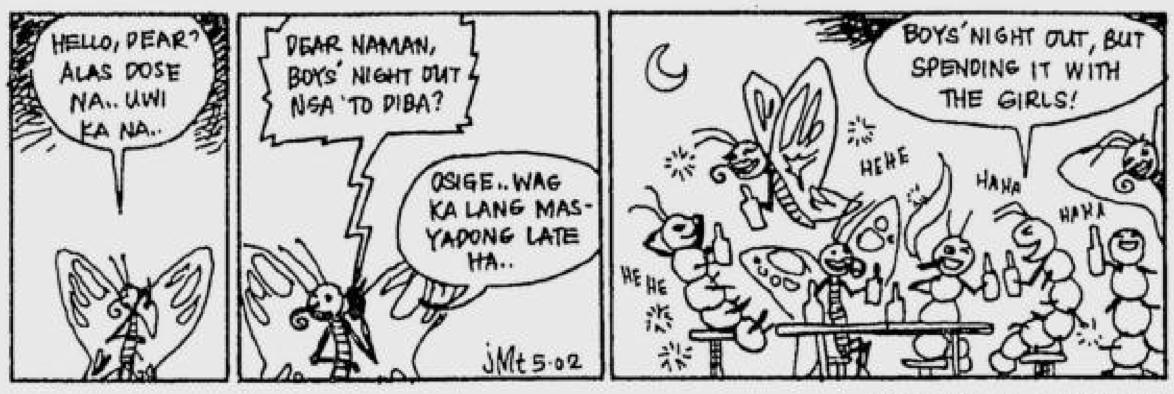
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


LALAKBAYIN KO ANG KALAWAKAN, LILIPARIN KO ANG KADILIMAN NG GABI,
UMIINIT ANG AKING DUGO SA PAGNANASA NA MAKAMIT ANG PUSO MO?
NANAY KO ASWANG!
DIONELA

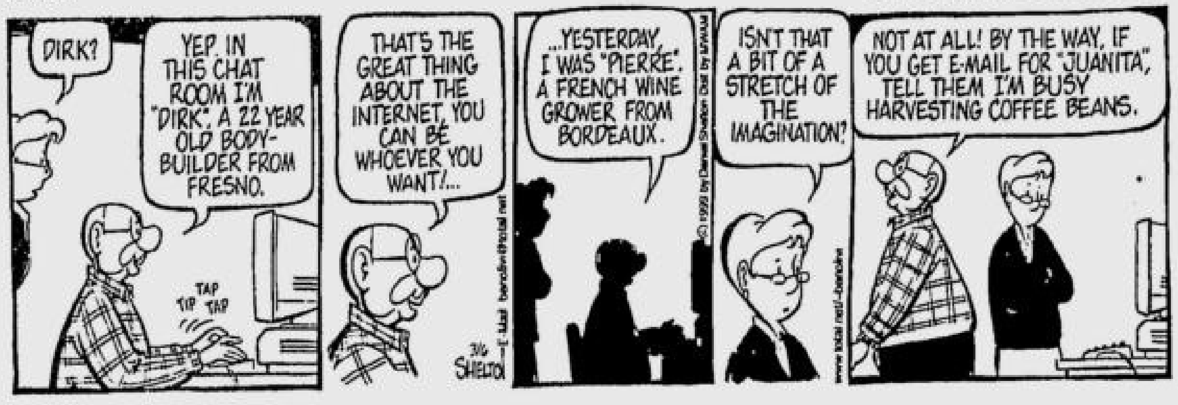
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HELLO, DEAR? ALAS DOSE NA.. UWI KA NA..
DEAR NAMAN, BOYS' NIGHT OUT NGA 'TO DIBA?
OSIGE.. WAG KA LANG MASYADONG LATE HA..
JMt 5.02
BOYS' NIGHT OUT, BUT SPENDING IT WITH THE GIRLS!
HEHE
HAHA
HAHA
HE HE

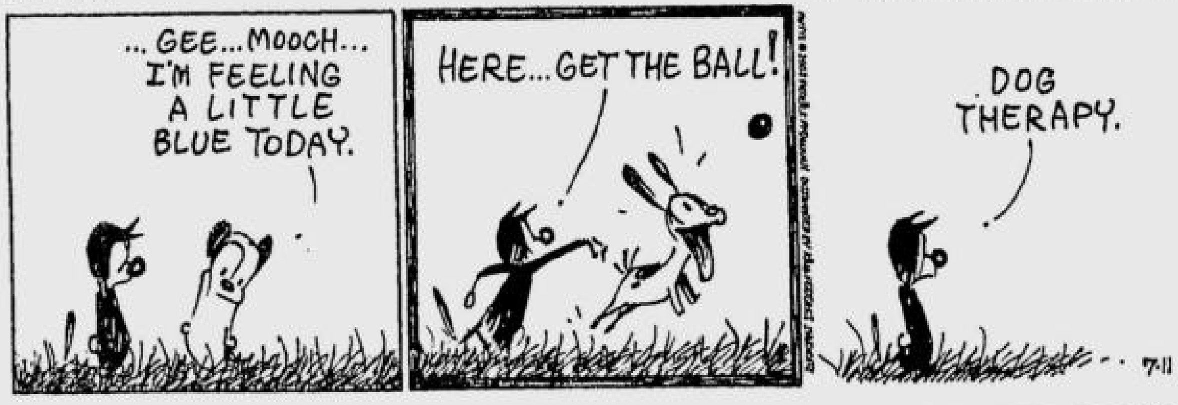
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DIRK?
YEP. IN THIS CHAT ROOM I'M "DIRK", A 22 YEAR OLD BODY-BUILDER FROM FRESNO.
TAP TIP TAP
THAT'S THE GREAT THING ABOUT THE INTERNET, YOU CAN BE WHOEVER YOU WANT!...
SHELTON
...YESTERDAY, I WAS "PIERRE", A FRENCH WINE GROWER FROM BORDEAUX.
ISN'T THAT A BIT OF A STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION?
NOT AT ALL! BY THE WAY, IF YOU GET E-MAIL FOR "JUANITA", TELL THEM I'M BUSY HARVESTING COFFEE BEANS.

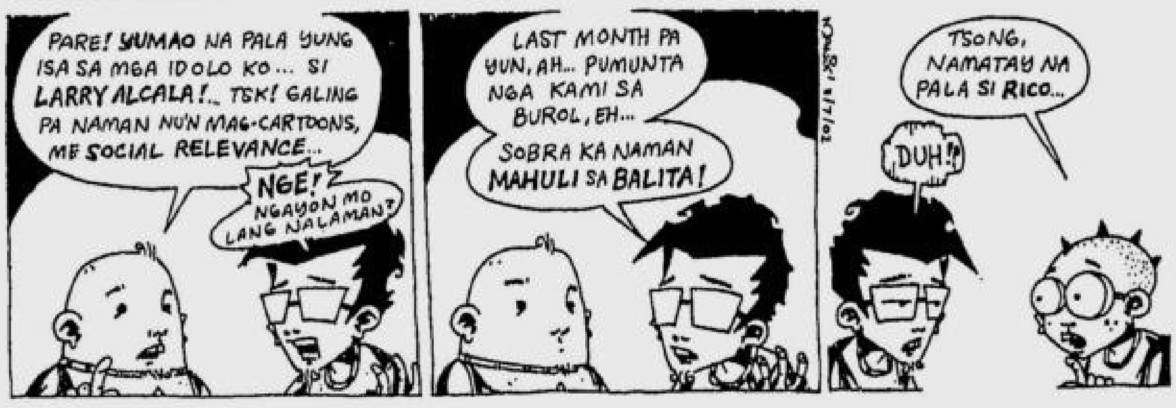
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


...GEE...MOOCH... I'M FEELING A LITTLE BLUE TODAY.
HERE...GET THE BALL!
DOG THERAPY.
7-11

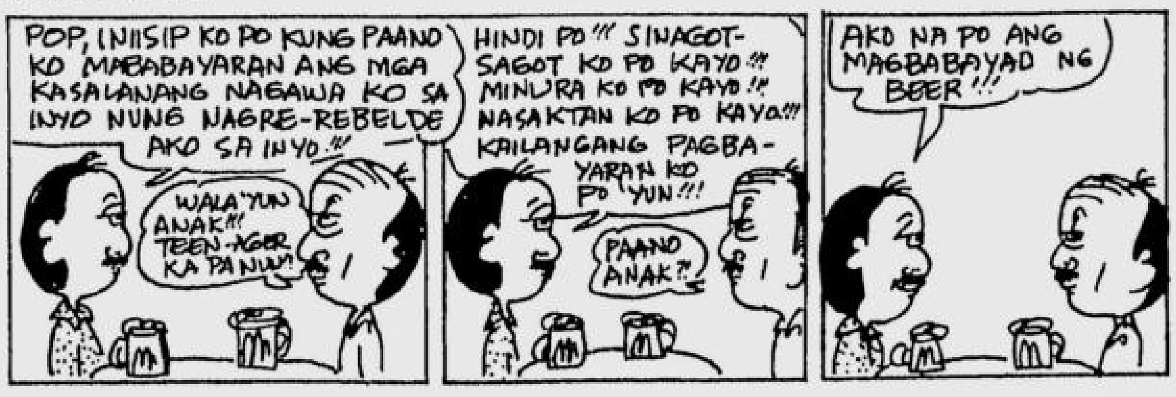
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PARE! YUMAO NA PALA YUNG ISA SA MGA IDOLO KO... SI LARRY ALCALA!.. TSK! GALING PA NAMAN NU'N MAG-CARTOONS, ME SOCIAL RELEVANCE...
NGE! NGAYON MO LANG NALAMAN?
LAST MONTH PA YUN, AH... PUMUNTA NGA KAMI SA BUROL, EH...
SOBRA KA NAMAN MAHULI SA BALITA!
TSONG, NAMATAY NA PALA SI RICO...
DUH!?

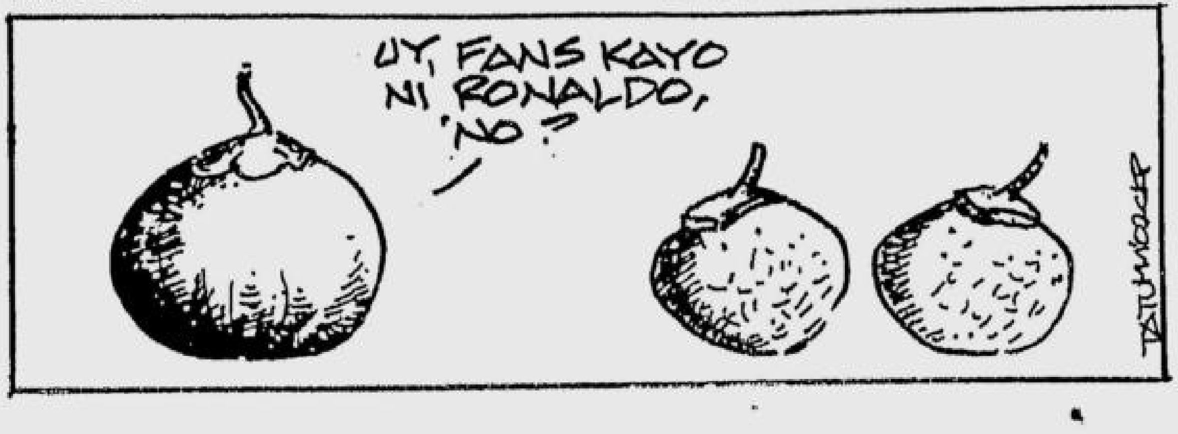
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


POP, INIISIP KO PO KUNG PAANO KO MABABAYARAN ANG MGA KASALANANG NAGAWA KO SA INYO NUNG NAGRE-REBELDE AKO SA INYO!!!
WALA 'YUN ANAK!!! TEEN-AGER KA PA NUN!
HINDI PO!!! SINAGOT-SAGOT KO PO KAYO!!! MINURA KO PO KAYO!!! NASAKTAN KO PO KAYO!!! KAILANGANG PAGBAYARAN KO PO 'YUN!!!
PAANO ANAK?
AKO NA PO ANG MAGBABAYAD NG BEER!!!

TULDOK

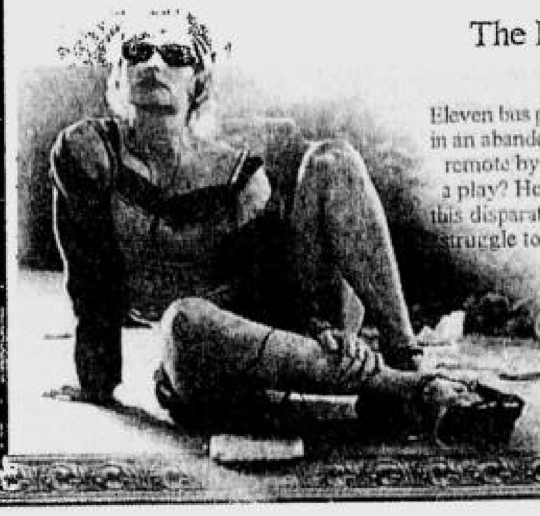
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


UY, FANS KAYO NI RONALDO, 'NO?
TATUM

AYALA CINEMAS

Discover ArtFilm Greenbelt 1

DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY



NOW SHOWING

The King is Alive, July 10-16

Miles Anderson, Romane Bohringer, David Bradley & Jennifer Jason Leigh

Eleven bus passengers take shelter from the elements in an abandoned desert town. As rescue grows more remote by the day an idea emerges: why not stage a play? However, the choice of King Lear plunges this disparate group of travelers into turmoil as they struggle to overcome nature's wrath and their own mortality.

Best Actress (Leigh), 2000 Tokyo International Film Festival

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)

NOKIA INQUIRER

SKYFILMS

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS)	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2 (SDDS)	BAD COMPANY
3 (DTS)	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 GOLD (DTS)	POWER PUFF GIRLS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	BIG FAT LIAR
6 GOLD (SDDS)	MINORITY REPORT
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	HIGH CRIMES
8	FOREVERMORE
9	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
10	JUST VISITING

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	SUGAT
2	HIGH CRIMES
3	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

starmall Movies

(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BAD COMPANY
2	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3	KATAWAN MO ..
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MINORITY REPORT
5	SUGAT

METROPOLIS star

tel 850.4285

1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2	FOREVERMORE
3	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
4	HIGH CRIMES
5	SUGAT
6	POWER PUFF GIRLS
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	HIGH CRIMES

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	FOREVERMORE
2	MURDER BY NUMBERS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC

tel 930.9515

1	
2	BATANG MAGDALENA
3	

Spring

(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	
A	

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	
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4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	HIGH CRIME
2	
3	
4	SUGAT
5	SLACKERS
6	MINORITY REPORT
7 (DTS)	POWER PUFF GIRLS
8 (SDDS)	BAD COMPANY
9 (DOLBY)	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	SUGAT

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	FOREVERMORE
2	HIGH CRIME
3	BAD COMPANY
4 (SDDS)	POWER PUFF GIRLS
5	SUGAT
6 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
7 (DTS)	HIGH CRIME
8	KATAWAN MO ..
9	TAMPISAW

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
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4	FOREVERMORE
5 (SDDS)	HIGH CRIME
6	SUGAT
7 (DOLBY)	POWER PUFF GIRLS
8	BAD COMPANY

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2	SUGAT
3 (DTS)	POWER PUFF GIRLS
4	FOREVERMORE
5 (SDDS)	HIGH CRIME

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SUGAT

Sampaquita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SUGAT

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SUGAT
Lords	NAGIINIT NA HAYOP
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	FOREVERMORE
2	HIGH CRIME
3	MINORITY REPORT

Prima

(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
2	FOREVERMORE
3	SUGAT
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA

tel 244.4619

1	
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3	
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5	
6	

FRC Cinema

Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	HINOG SA PILIT
2	RESERVE

Berma

TEL. 8792030 / 8792029

1	SUGAT
2	MINORITY REPORT

CitiMall

(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2	FOREVERMORE
3 (DTS)	JUST VISITING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	JUST VISITING
2 (DTS)	FOREVERMORE
3 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
4	SLACKERS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	FOREVERMORE
2 (DOLBY)	JUST VISITING
3 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
4	SLACKERS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
2	SCOOBY DOO
3	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	FOREVERMORE
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 (DOLBY)	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HIGH CRIME
2	LAGING SARIWA ANG SUGAT
3	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
4 (DTS)	SUGAT

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
2	SLACKERS
3 (DTS)	JUST VISITING
4	FOREVERMORE
5	KATAWAN MO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	FOREVERMORE
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249-2558

1	FOREVERMORE
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Olivarez Tagaytay

tel (046) 413.0311

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE

Morales Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep

(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TAMPISAW
2	FOREVERMORE
3	MINORITY REPORT

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
4	PANIC ROOM

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

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3 (DTS)	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
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7	SUGAT
8	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

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1	FOREVERMORE
2	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3	POWERPUFF GIRLS
4	SLACKERS
5	HIGH CRIMES
6	SUGAT
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	BAD COMPANY
10	JUST VISITING

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
2	JUST VISITING
3	SCOOBY DOO
4	BAD COMPANY
5	POWERPUFF GIRLS
6	FOREVERMORE
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	HIGH CRIMES
9	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
10	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
11	SLACKERS
12	KATAWAN MO . . .

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	HIGH CRIMES
2	BAD COMPANY
3	BIG FAT LIAR
4	POWERPUFF GIRLS
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	JUST VISITING
8	SLACKERS
9	FOREVERMORE
10	SUGAT
11	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
12	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

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3	MINORITY REPORT
4	HIGH CRIMES
5	BIG FAT LIAR
6	SUM OF ALL FEARS
7	SLACKERS
8	SUGAT
9	FOREVERMORE
10	BAD COMPANY
11	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
12	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	BAD COMPANY
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	SUGAT
4	FOREVERMORE
5	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
6	POWERPUFF GIRLS
7	HIGH CRIMES
8	BIG FAT LIAR
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM SOUTHMALL

8060000

1	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2	BAD COMPANY
3	POWERPUFF GIRLS
4	BIG FAT LIAR
5	SCOOBY DOO
6	SUM OF ALL FEARS
7	FOREVERMORE
8	HIGH CRIMES
9	MINORITY REPORT
10	SUGAT

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	AMELIE
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
4	BENEATH LOCHNESS
5	TAMPISAW
6	RESIDENT EVIL
7	FOREVERMORE
8	MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	FOREVERMORE
2	CLOSED
3	FRUIT IS SWELLING
4	BAD COMPANY
5	UTANG NI TATANG
6	MONSTER'S BALL
7	CLOSED
8	RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
3	JUST VISITING
4	A WALK TO REMEMBER
5	TAMPISAW
6	FOREVERMORE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

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1	FOREVERMORE
2	HIGH CRIMES
3	POWERPUFF GIRLS
4	MINORITY REPORT

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8820984

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2	POWERPUFF GIRLS
3	FOREVERMORE
4	SUGAT

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	BAD COMPANY
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	FOREVERMORE
4	KATAWAN MO . . .
5	MONSTER'S BALL
6	RESIDENT EVIL

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2	
3	
4	

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3	
4	

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6	MINORITY REPORT
7	FOREVERMORE
8	JUST VISITING
9	BAD COMPANY
10	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .

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1	HIGH CRIME
2	FOREVERMORE
3	BIG FAT LIAR
4	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
5	BAD COMPANY
6	POWERPUFF GIRLS
7	MINORITY REPORT

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1	BAD COMPANY
2	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3	HIGH CRIME
4	FOREVERMORE
5	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	POWERPUFF GIRLS

Novaliches

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1	MINORITY REPORT
2	BAD COMPANY
3	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4	HIGH CRIME
5	POWERPUFF GIRLS
6	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
7	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
8	FOREVERMORE

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2	SUGAT
3	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
4	POWERPUFF GIRLS
5	FOREVERMORE
6	MINORITY REPORT

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1	BAD COMPANY
2	MURDER BY NUMBERS
3	DISKARTE
4	CASS & CARY
5	FOREVERMORE
6	MINORITY REPORT

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2	RESIDENT EVIL
3	BAD COMPANY
4	FRUIT IS SWELLING
5	IN THE BEDROOM
6	FOREVERMORE

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Rico alive and well in brother Bobby's work

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

BOBBY YAN had a two-week bout with the flu but now he's back co-hosting "Alas Singko Y Medya," supervising The Rico Yan Youth Foundation (TRYYF) and running the Fry This food chain, a brainchild of his and his late brother **Rico**, at SM City, SM Southmall, Robinson's Place, Ermita and Ash Creek Ortigas.

Bobby is delighted that the business venture Rico had been looking forward to launch is faring well.

"Pinoys really go for pica-pica," Bobby notes. "I guess our clients have realized that junk food is no good. Fry This gives them a yummy and healthy alternative way to snack. We use a special frying ingredient which helps to balance the good and the bad cholesterol in the body."

Considering how sudden Rico's demise was, it's no surprise why Bobby is making sure that Fry This serves only nutritious fare such as apple pie fritters, sushi balls, mushroom fries, to name a few. He also sees to it that they keep their prices low.

Proceeds of Fry This sales go to the foundation which is helping lost young souls.

Bobby is happy that the mayor of Tanay, Rizal donated a huge lot where the foundation intends to put up a youth camp. His mom just returned from the US where she launched Rico's foundation in the West Coast. Bobby also checked out the trees that Rico had planted in Dapitan and Zamboanga and he will soon launch a nationwide tree-planting activity.

Bobby has never been busier. The good thing is that what's keeping him busy is also keeping him happy. And for sure, Rico can't be any happier watching Bobby do his thing.

French fete

I'M raring to take a refresher course in Alliance Francaise to brush up on my French. I'm so in love with the language that I even took up Linguistics (major in French) in UP Diliman. Now all I get to practice is my French kiss and my French leave.

Sunday is Fete de la Bastille. Come celebrate *Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite* with Alliance Francaise and Le Club at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Join Bal du Quatorze Juillet on Saturday, July 13,7:30 p.m., at Westin's Café Plaza

For inquiries, call 551-5555. *Voulez-vous danser avec moi ce soir?*

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Music's newest wonder boy

From page A26

natural ability in the pop and rock arena, but I love his sense of classics even more. He's a true musical force to be reckoned with."

When asked what style suits him best, Groban takes his time to answer. "People might want to classify me as operatic, I suppose, but I won't even be touching arias for a long time. I want my voice to mature. I hope to look back on my career five or ten years from now and see that I continued to grow as a singer. I would never want to be pigeonholed."

Ally McBeal

Josh also appeared in the 2001 season finale of the hit TV program "Ally McBeal," where, in his character's high school prom, he sang the moving song, "You're Still You" from his debut album. "Ally McBeal" received an amazing 8,000 fan e-mails and Josh was asked to return to the show. He will be featured in the holiday episode of "Ally" airing on Dec. 10, in which he will sing "To Where You Are," also from his album.

Another song, "For Always," sung by Josh and Lara Fabian, appeared on the soundtrack of Spielberg(1)'s "A.I."

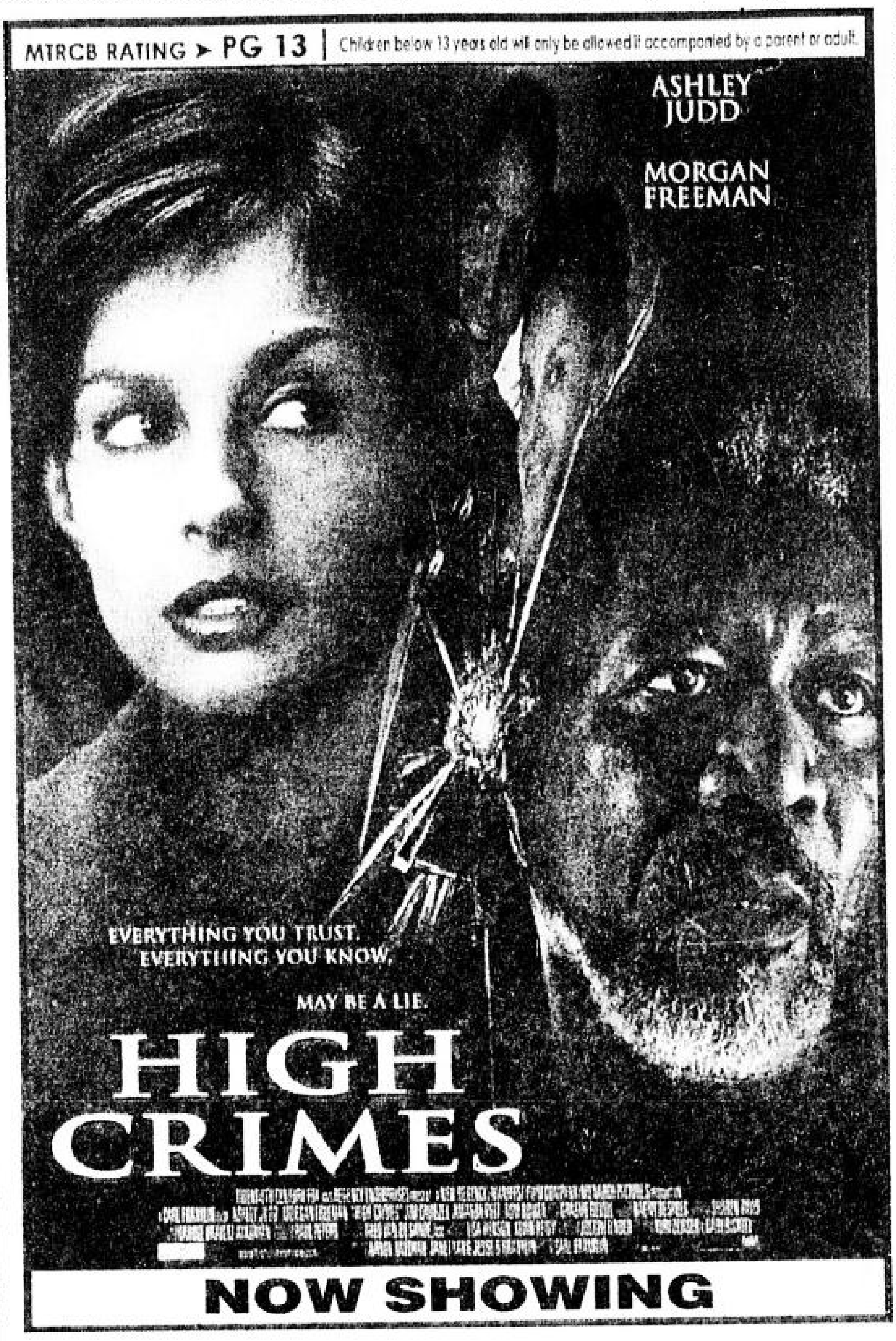
The new boy wonder of music will also be featured in the Charlotte Church PBS November special and will share the bill with k.d. lang on Music Choice, which begins airing on Nov. 19.

"It's been like a dream so far," says Josh.

Except that it's very real, and his music, as the album "Josh Groban" proves, is very good.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FOREVERMORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	HIGH CRIMES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BIG FAT LIAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	BAD COMPANY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SUGAT
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SANA TOTOO NA / SENSES
ODEON	HIGH CRIMES
ODEON-2	SPY GAMES / DEADLINE BEIRUT
ROBEN	SUGAT
TANDEM-1	MAMASAN
TANDEM-2	MONSTER'S BALL
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
REMAR	SUGAT
REMAR-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SUGAT
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-2	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SUGAT
CINEMA-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
CINEMA-3	JUST VISITING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-6	SLACKERS
CINEMA-7	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-8	TAMPISAW
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BIG FAT LIAR
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-12	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
CINEMA-14	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-15	FOREVERMORE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-2	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-3	BIG FAT LIAR
CINEMA-4	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-5	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
CINEMA-6	HIGH CRIMES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID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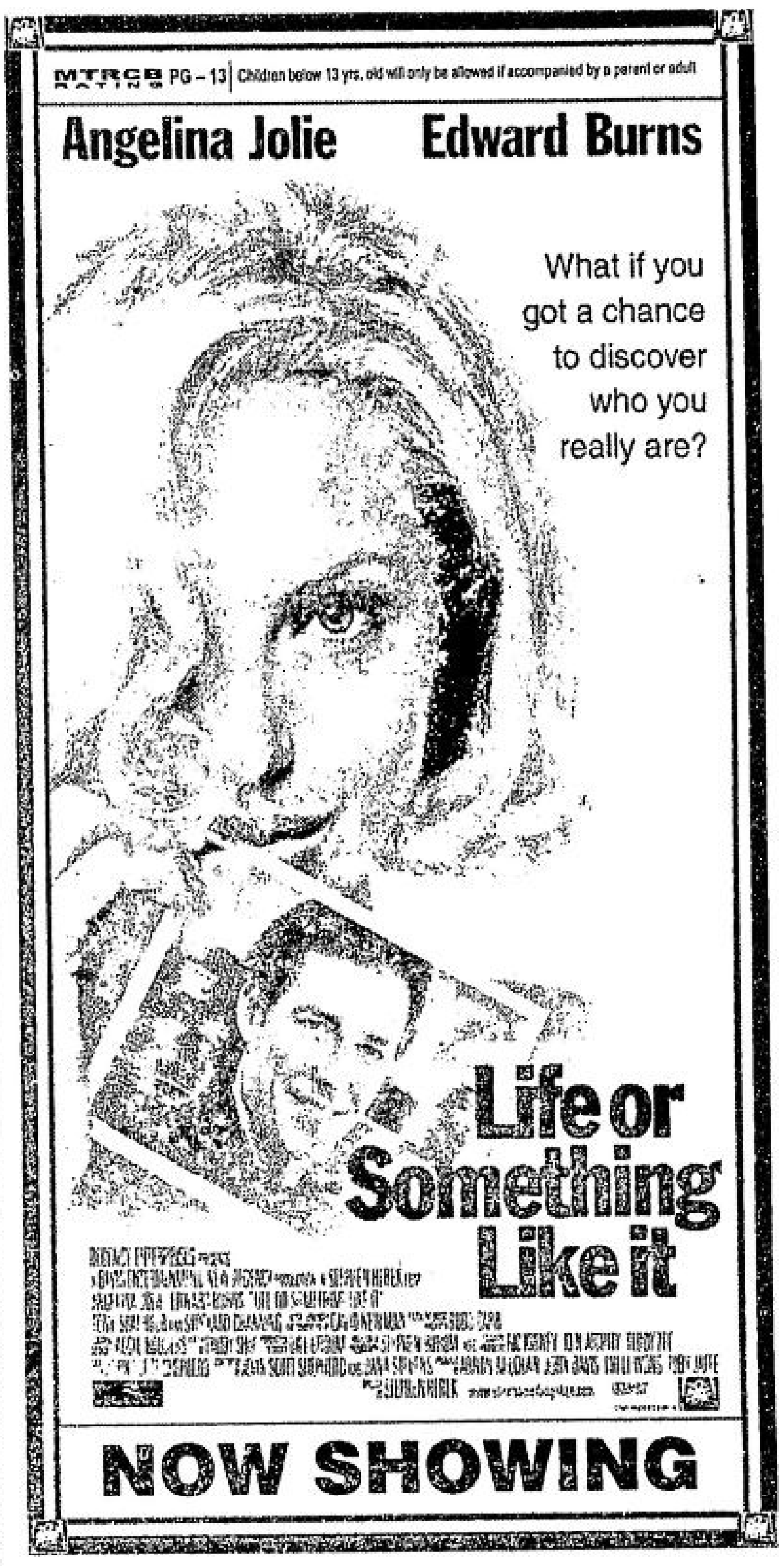
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2 THE POWERPUFF GIRLS	2 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 HIGH CRIMES 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	2 THE POWERPUFF GIRLS
3 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN	3 HIGH CRIMES 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	3 IRIS	3 AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	3 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
4 MINORITY REPORT	4 BAD COMPANY	Onstage TRUE FAITH @ ONSTAGE JULY 12 (FRI.) - 9 PM	4 BIG FAT LIAR 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20	4 BIG FAT LIAR
	5 LIFE OR SOMETHING...		5 POWERPUFF GIRLS 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20	5 MINORITY REPORT
	6 MINORITY REPORT			
	7 BIG FAT LIAR			

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

New films

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN "High Crimes," Claire (**Ashley Judd**), a high-powered attorney, and her husband Tom (**Jim Caviezel**), a successful contractor, lead an idyllic life. But a random crime at their home triggers a chain of events that shatters their world.

Tom is arrested and exposed as a man who's been living a double life. As covert military operative Ronald Chapman, he murdered civilians in El Salvador 15 years ago, and has been a fugitive ever since.

Claire prepares to defend her husband in a top-secret military court. She realizes she needs the help of somebody who is familiar with the special court's rules, and enlists the help of a disgraced military officer, Charlie Grimes (**Morgan Freeman**), who relishes the chance to get back at the authorities who fired him years ago.

Squaring off against the formidable military establishment, Claire and Charlie uncover what could be a scandalous cover-up perpetrated by some top-ranking military officers. In the process, however, they put their lives at risk.

Meanwhile, in "Slackers," Dave, Sam and Jeff, big men on campus, are about to graduate from college, but are caught cheating by Ethan.

He blackmails them into getting Angela, the girl of his dreams, to go out on a date with him. As fate would have it, however, Dave falls for Angela himself, and she likes him, too. What to do?

Dave, Sam and Jeff are forced to come up with their most elaborate scheme to foil Ethan's plot, get Angela, and save their own skins.

The story has a classic "Cyrano de Bergerac" element: It's about a guy falling for a girl, getting another guy to help him win her, and in the process, the modern-day Cyrano ends up falling for the girl himself.

To appeal to the youth audience, the movie's leads are young stars from the world of film and television—**Devon Sawa** as Dave, **Jason Schwartzman** as Ethan, **Jason Segel** as Sam, **Michael Maronna** as Jeff, and **Laura Prepon** as Reanna.

Finally, **Chris Rock** follows in the footsteps of previous **Jerry Bruckheimer** protegees **Will Smith** and **Eddie Murphy**, as he stars in the hit producer's latest film, "Bad Company." Chris plays a streetwise wheeler-dealer, Jake Hayes, who gets involved in international espionage when his twin brother, Kevin Pope, a top CIA agent, is murdered.

In only eight days, Rock's character has to be transformed into a competent secret agent, in time to pull off a crucial nuclear weapons deal. That tough assignment is given to a veteran CIA agent (**Anthony Hopkins**), who hates the assignment from day one. But he and Rock's character have to learn how to work together, to succeed at their all-important mission.

Quiz show errors

QUIZMASTER: *Si* Rapunzel, *isang* fairy tale character, *ay kilala dahil sa kanyang mahabang*—(fill in the blank)?

Contestant: *Pakpak*!

(No, *buhok*!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Saang siyudad ginawa ang unang* Olympic games?

Contestant: Salt Lake City!

(No, Athens!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Kung ang* mountain climbing *ay ginagawa sa bundok, saan ginagagawa ang* wall climbing?

Contestant: *Sa patag*!

(No, *sa* wall!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Gaano kalalim inililibing ang bangkay ng tao?*

Contestant: Fifty feet underground!

(Naman! Anim lang!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Saan* located *ang* temporal bone?

Contestant: *Sa paa*!

(No, *sa ulo*!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang* collective name *nina* God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

Contestant: Ah, Roman Catholic?

(No, the Holy Trinity!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ang* enamel *ay* toughest tissues *sa ating katawan. Saan ito located?*

Contestant: *Sa katawan*!

(Too general—*sa ngipin*!)

Music's newest wonder boy

JOSH GROBAN. "A true musical force to be reckoned with," says David Foster.

SINGER Josh Groban's story sounds like a good material for a feel-good movie.

Josh, now only 21, was discovered by the very well known and well respected producer, writer and arranger David Foster. Their tie-up is like Spielberg directing Cruise.

Josh has released a Foster-helmed debut album "Josh Groban" featuring Charlotte Church, The Corrs, Rhys Fulber and Lili Haydn. Not bad for a kid who joined the school vocal group only because "everyone else was doing it."

Born in Los Angeles, Josh put singing on hold two to three years after his seventh grade debut because he had to change schools. Only when he attended the prestigious Interlochen Arts Program did he begin to take his talent seriously.

He started taking music lessons on the side. "I was very much into musical theater. I had a pretty good baritone voice, so I began acting and singing in school productions."

Citing actor Mandy Patinkin as one of his early musical theater heroes, Josh says he realized late in 1998 that his intense vocal discipline was about to pay off. "I was studying with a vocal coach who knew David Foster. One day David called him and said he needed a singer right away for an event he was putting on for the inauguration of the governor of California."

Josh sent a tape to Foster, and the next thing he knew he was being called to rehearse for the event. He sang "All I Ask of You."

"A month later David calls me and asks me if I know the Celine Dion/Andrea Bocelli song 'The Prayer.' I say 'of course.'" The song, which appeared on both Bocelli's and Dion's own albums, was in fact, written by Foster.

Duet with Dion

Incredibly, Foster enlisted Groban to fill in for Bocelli in the 1999 Grammy rehearsals with Dion, because Bocelli couldn't make it to the practice session.

Josh was in shock. "He was asking me to come down to the Shrine and sing with Celine Dion," Josh laughs. "At first I said no. I was afraid the song was too high for me, and God knows, I didn't want to embarrass myself."

But Foster prevailed, and Josh, who was only 17 then, sang the Oscar-nominated song in front of several other Grammy nominated artists—and with Celine Dion herself.

"The whole experience was unreal," remembers Josh. "David invited me back to the dress rehearsal, and there I was sitting in the front row watching Aerosmith and Madonna do their thing."

Rosie's show

Josh Groban's story gets even more incredible. The Grammy host for that year, Rosie O'Donnell, noticed Josh in the dress rehearsal audience and invited him backstage.

O'Donnel told him: "You're the opera boy, huh? You were great." And then, right there and then, she booked Josh in her TV show. A few weeks later Groban appeared and was interviewed on "The Rosie O'Donnell Show."

Josh continued to perform in events for Foster, but he also began to concentrate on getting a college education. Soon, he received news that Carnegie Mellon's prestigious musical theater department had accepted him.

When Foster booked Josh for yet another music industry party, "that was the beginning of the conflict," says Josh. "I was thrilled to be singing for David, but I was also excited about attending classes at Carnegie Mellon."

During a music industry event, a group of Warner Bros. executives told Foster they were interested in signing Josh to a record deal. Josh decided to put school on hold so he could pursue his singing career.

Says Foster of Josh's versatility: "I love his

MUSIC'S/ A25

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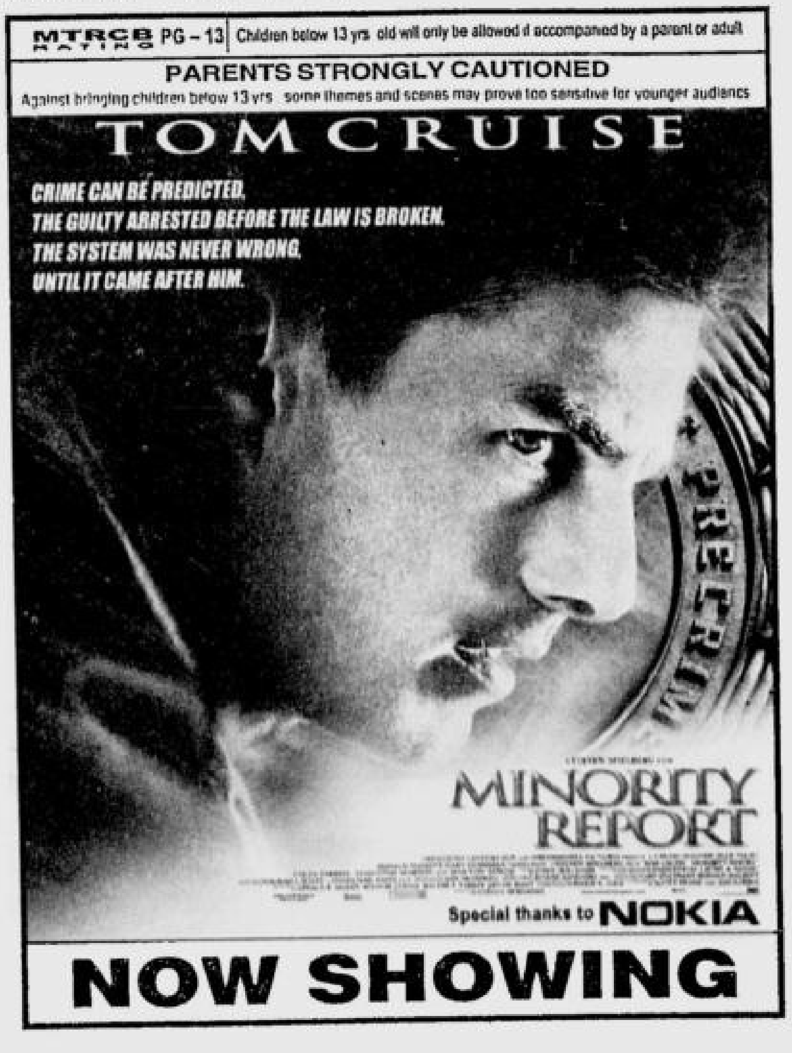

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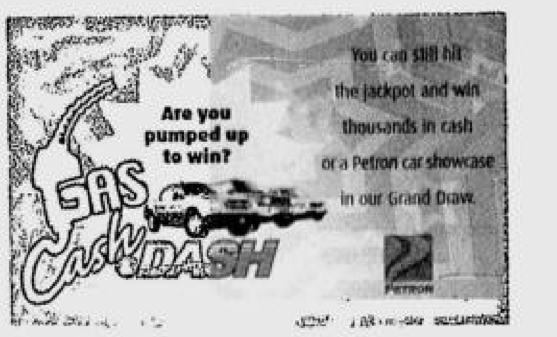
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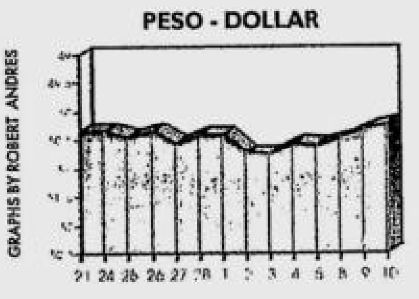


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.225 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 10, 2002

¥ 117.84 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 10, 2002

GOLD: $316.60/317.10

per ounce Hong Kong,
July 10, 2002

July 10, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.005935	1.000000	50.3650
Japan	Yen	0.008522	0.008472	0.4267
United Kingdom	Pound	1.558294	1.549100	78.0204
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.128968	0.128207	6.4571
Switzerland	Franc	0.678769	0.674764	33.9845
Canada	Dollar	0.665389	0.661463	33.3146
Singapore	Dollar	0.573183	0.569801	28.6980
Australia	Dollar	0.571229	0.567859	28.6002
Bahrain	Dinar	2.668405	2.652661	133.6013
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.268257	0.266674	13.4310
Brunei	Dollar	0.570097	0.566733	28.5435
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000112	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024398	0.024254	1.2216
UAE	Dirham	0.273910	0.272294	13.7141
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.000857	0.0432
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.994100	50.0678
Brazil	Real	0.353332	0.351247	17.6906
Denmark	Kroner	0.134627	0.133833	6.7405
India	Rupee	0.020647	0.020525	1.0337
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.264755	0.263193	13.2557
Mexico	New Peso	0.102229	0.101626	5.1184
New Zealand	Dollar	0.495120	0.492199	24.7896
Norway	Kroner	0.136817	0.136010	6.8501
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016766	0.016667	0.8394
South Africa	Rand	0.100977	0.100381	5.0557
Sweden	Kroner	0.108245	0.107606	5.4196
Syria	Pound	0.019570	0.019455	0.9799
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030318	0.030139	1.5180
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000739	0.000735	0.0370

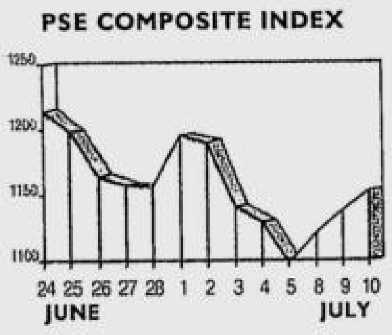
STOCK MARKET

Shares rise 1.3 percent

SHARE prices rose 1.3 percent yesterday in a continued technical rebound, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 14.69 points to 1,153.12.

"This is a continuation of the technical bounce the market has been seeing this week," said Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities Inc. However, he added the rally might not be sustained because of the absence of any fresh leads.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Volume turnover rose to 284.6 million shares while value dropped to P266.4 million from 197 million shares worth about P355 million on Tuesday.

SM Prime Holdings gained 20 centavos to P5.80. Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) "A" shares rose by 25 centavos to P20.50 while its "B" shares gained P1.50 to P29.50. Petron Corp. also gained 4 centavos to hit P1.76. But Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) dropped P5 to P327.50. *AFP*

Honda outlines expansion plan

TOKYO—Honda Motor Co. said it plans to increase transmission production in the Philippines and set up a new production plant in Indonesia for transmissions, chief executive Hiroyuki Yoshino said yesterday.

About a third of the transmissions produced in the two nations will be used in Honda cars made in Europe.

Later this year, connecting rods and other parts will be produced at a Honda joint venture plant in China for export to European plants.

Honda said it would begin auto production in Taiwan as well. Honda set up a subsidiary Honda Taiwan Co. earlier this year. It will produce the CR-V sports utility vehicle before the end of this year.

Honda is embarking on a new three-year global cost-cutting strategy to raise production in North America and Asia.

While maintaining annual vehicle production in Japan at 1.3 million, Japan's No. 2 automaker will increase production in North America to 1.4 million vehicles by the fiscal year ending in March 2005, up from 1.22 million in fiscal 2002. *AP*

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INFLUENTIAL Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the biggest business organization in the country, is urging the Bureau of Customs to declare an amnesty for importers who have not settled their tax and duty obligations.

The group also encouraged the agency to reform its processes and dismantle policies that tend to abet smuggling instead of curbing it. It also recommended the hiring anew of a third-party import inspector.

PCCI president Sergio Ortiz-Luis said that the Customs could easily raise P2 billion if it would declare an amnesty, which it had not done ever since, as opposed to the Bureau of Internal Revenue that had been periodically granting amnesty to businesses.

An amnesty program to exporters, Ortiz-Luis said, would be mutually beneficial to the Customs as well as to businesses. The bureau has been having a hard time delivering its revenue commitments to the government and this year, it should raise P115 billion for state coffers.

PCCI corporate secretary Donald Dee explained that the Customs have imposed taxes and duties on imported products, usually raw materials, that would also be used for export commodities.

Dee said that some exporters were having a hard time producing papers proving that the raw materials would be used to produce export goods. When this happens, the Customs would impose the necessary taxes and duties plus a penalty of 3 percent every month until the obligation was settled.

"Some of the pending cases go as far back as 10 years and you would imagine how much the penalties have compounded. This is one of the obstacles that importers currently face and an amnesty would help them as well as the Customs bureau," Dee said.

Ortiz-Luis said the pending cases only became a source of graft and the perception among business groups was that smuggling had been increasing.

"The perception of some business groups with the Customs is not very good. Most businesses believe that smuggling remains rampant despite the successful drive of Customs to address the rice smuggling in Cebu," the PCCI president said.

In the first five months, Customs only collected P36.78 billion or only 68.72 percent of the target for the first half. In May alone, the bureau only delivered P7.7 billion or 16.85 percent lower than in the same period in 2001.

During the first quarter, the Customs' collection of P20.7 billion was P2.455 billion or 10.6 percent short of its target for the three-month period.

Dee said that the Customs must disallow the practice of importing "balikbayan boxes" because this should be classified as smuggling.

"When a balikbayan box is shipped, you do not know what it contains and Customs cannot open it. So the taxes and duties imposed were usually negotiated," he noted.

Valuation of import duties after the government terminated the services of Swiss import inspector SGS in March 2000 had become problematic, according to the PCCI officials.

"We have been asking Customs to publish their valuation but it had never done so. To some extent, a third-party inspector is important. We have been recommending to the government to hire a third-party inspector and the importers will pay for the cost," Dee said.

Currently, the taxes and duties imposed on an imported product depends on the transaction value evaluated by the Customs. Most of the time, the importer and the Customs argue over the appropriate valuation and without a third party, importers feel that the valuation is usually unfair.

AT&T, PLDT in talks on new joint venture

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOCAL arm of AT&T is in talks with Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. on a possible joint venture that will form part of the American firm's $300-million network expansion project.

The development project is part of AT&T's global investment to upgrade and expand its existing network all over the world.

In an earlier interview, AT&T Philippines general manager Edwin Gerald Lapitan said most of the amount would be spent in the expansion process in Europe and in Asia-Pacific.

To better facilitate the company's expansion plans, he pointed out that a partnership with a local telecommunications firm was one of AT&T's strategies.

He said the company was seriously considering PLDT because of its vast fixed line network.

It is likewise looking into a possible partnership with wireless giants Smart Communications Inc. or Globe Telecom Inc. because of their big mobile networks.

"It doesn't matter if it is wireless or fixed line. We are talking to all of them. We keep our options open," he said.

PLDT sources noted that the fact that the telecommunications firm was being seriously considered for a multimillion-dollar venture meant that the company remained strong and stable despite the controversy surrounding the planned sale to the Gokongwei family.

"This can be considered as an endorsement of the strength and vision of the company. It also stresses that it's business as usual for PLDT in spite of some issues that threaten to disrupt corporate activities," a PLDT official said.

Aside from network and equipment investment, AT&T will also invest in a management system that will run the network and in people that will operate and maintain it.

AT&T Philippines has 40 major customers and 30 smaller clients coming from various sectors.

Its leased lines business accounts for the biggest chunk of its market here, although Lapitan said its managed services business was showing strong growth because of the current outsourcing trend that is sweeping across businesses all over the world.

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Professor Purba Rao is the holder of the Don Benigno Toda, Jr. Chair in Business Management. In India, she was on the faculty of the School of Computers and Systems Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi). She worked at BHEL, a public sector company engaged in the manufacture of equipment for power generation. Thereafter, she joined the Ministry of Railways where she applied operations research and computer techniques to railway operations in India. Prof. Rao is the author of *Environmental Management Systems in Southeast Asia – Towards A Green Millennium* (AIM, 2000). The book features quantitative and qualitative case studies on organizations that have introduced successful environment-friendly initiatives in the region. Her research papers have been published in both foreign and local journals. Prof. Rao is a Fellow in Management of the Indian Institute of Management – Calcutta. She holds a Master of Science in Applied Mathematics from the College of Science, University of Calcutta, and completed her Bachelor of Science at the Presidency College - Calcutta.

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Professor Gaston D. Ortigas, Jr. is the holder of the Pepsi Cola Chair in Business Management and serves on the core faculty of the Master in Development Management and the Master in Business Management programs. He teaches Total Quality Management, Operations Management, and Information Management, and runs computer-based management simulations and exercises. His current research areas of interest include: sustainable enterprise management, electronic commerce, knowledge management, and flexible learning methodologies. As Executive Managing Director for New Programs Development, Prof. Ortigas is responsible for enabling the development of strategic programs and service offerings for the Institute's fourth decade of operations. Prof. Ortigas completed his Master in Business Management from the Asian Institute of Management. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of the Philippines.

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Trade surplus seen rising to $3.2B next year

THE COUNTRY'S trade surplus is likely to dip slightly this year with exports yet to fully recover from last year's global economic slump, according to a Reuters poll.

The survey of 10 economists showed the country's trade balance on average easing to a surplus of $2.5 billion this year, from $2.6 billion in 2001. In 2000, the surplus totaled $6.6 billion.

The surplus will then likely grow in 2003 to $3.2 billion as the pace of export sales picks up in tandem with a stronger global economy, the economists said.

Exports slumped 15 percent in 2001, as electronics demand dived and the US and Japanese economies weakened.

Since then there has been a modest recovery in the economy of the United States, the Philippines' largest trading partner, though not as robust as earlier hoped for.

"As long as the US economy remains stable, it doesn't even have to expand that much, we will benefit," said DBS Vickers Philippines economist and analyst Jose Maria Lacson.

He added: "The thing that could go wrong (weigh on the surplus) is if local manufacturing growth was much stronger than expected and our trading partners' economies did not expand as much as expected."

Exports rebounded in April and May after 15 consecutive monthly declines while imports, which were at a seven-year low in January, also showed a resurgence in February, led by electronic components. *Reuters*

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*Fortune Magazine, July 2001

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Due unto others

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SOMEBODY in the First Pacific Group in Hong Kong is trying to do unto Manny Pangilinan what Manny is used to doing unto others.

In the takeover of PLDT, supposedly by First Pacific and the Gokongwei group, that somebody is up against Manny, precisely, in Manny's own game.

And that is, corporate takeover. Who do you think has the edge? I'm not ready to say if Manny, finally, meets his match, but I doubt it.

Recent twists in the PLDT takeover show First Pacific, or whoever is handling it for the group, to be a bungling amateur without Manny on their side.

From the start, Manny is the deal maker of First Pacific. He is the group's takeover artist. He knows the ins and outs of the PLDT deal, simply because he made it.

In this fight between Manny and somebody in First Pacific, therefore, Manny is like the turtle in the fable which the wise monkey throws into the water.

It's like locking me up in a karaoke bar with GROs . . . no, erase, it's like locking up the man named Band . . .Wrist Band . . . in the wine cellar. Manny is right in his element.

* * *

AS CEO and president of the ₱300-billion PLDT, of course, Manny should only be on the side of the PLDT board in this latest corporate raid by John Gokongwei Jr.

In that court case in New York, for instance, the PLDT board tries to force First Pacific to reveal the terms of its takeover agreement with Gokongwei.

The agreement remains top secret. Keeping it a secret, however, is against the US law. It so happens PLDT is listed in New York. It is thus First Pacific's major blunder.

And it is not the way First Pacific operates under Manny. All his takeover deals, and they were many, went smoothly. The best example is the very same PLDT.

In that takeover of Manny from Tonyboy Cojuangco, it even seemed Tonyboy owed Manny a debt of gratitude. In his deals, Manny gives to others what is due them.

But up to now, although it's hard to believe they didn't do it on purpose, nobody knows the terms of the agreement between First Pacific and Gokongwei except them.

Other groups have pre-emptive rights over First Pacific's holdings in PLDT. They cannot even try to match the Gokongwei offer, which Manny is trying to do, precisely.

But soon, maybe in just a couple of weeks, from what I gather, we'll hear about Manny's move for Fort Bonifacio, which is said to be part of the Gokongwei deal.

As for PLDT, I guess it will take a while. The Gokongwei group cannot even do due diligence. Buying something blindly is not the style of the old man.

* * *

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto is leaving his office next month, because his term is expiring. No, he doesn't want to call it retirement.

All of 67 years old, Desierto doesn't feel he is ready to stop working. For one, he was not born rich. Believe me, the guy still needs a job. Or else he won't eat.

But more than just survival, the country's first ombudsman wants to finish the work he started. Desierto wants to become a crusader against graft and corruption.

Over radio one time, he told me he would join his anti-corruption group, so that he would continue to watch out for anomalies in the government.

In his time, based on official figures, Desierto got some 65,000 complaints. Some 28,000 were filed in court. I wonder how his office could cope with those many cases.

But here are the interesting figures. In 1999, corruption cases filed with the ombudsman were some 2,700. By 2001, they were down to less than 2,000 cases.

In his simple way, therefore, citing those figures, Desierto likes to claim that corruption should be waning. Maybe he is correct. I really hope he is correct.

But then again, the figures can also mean that the crooks in public service have learned the racket so well, a lot of them can get away with it, no sweat.

* * *

OUR brave police force, at least some of them, have misgivings about media people. Why do we have to highlight news on kidnappings?

In other countries, according to the popular view going around in the PNP, news outfits rarely report about kidnapping, and here, we do the exact opposite. We even sensationalize kidnapping news.

As a result, based on the police thinking, the whole world thinks kidnapping is prevalent in the Philippines. This country is even known abroad as the kidnapping capital of the world. I'm not exactly proud of that.

Well and good, maybe the police have a point, and some media outfits even add to the problem by glamorizing the business, este, the crime of kidnapping. I'm sure members of kidnapping syndicates hunger for the publicity.

But here's my beef—the kidnapping summit. It is all for show. It is for public consumption. It is nothing but a media show. Thus the police may be guilty of the same offense. They also sensationalize their efforts.

I thought it would have been better if they just sat down privately, figured out what to do, and then just do it—without much ado like a summit. If they decide to go for extra legal action, nobody will even know.

* * *

GLORIA, and not Gloriaetta, just greeted us welcome to the rainy season. As everybody in Malabon knows, heavy rains only mean floods. Everything really stops. and the saddest part is, people even die.

Now the question is, why can't we do something about the floods. We know the rains are coming. It's not as if we live in the freaking Sahara Desert, so that when it rains, we already fear that the global climate is changing into cataclysmic proportion.

Year in and year out, we can expect heavy rains here. Yet the government seems lost about what to do with the subsequent flooding. Thus, the government gave the problem to the MMDA.

It used to be the concern of the DPWH, which has been solving the flooding problem for eternity. Naturally, the problem is still here much much worse than ever. For the longest time, we have suffered the floods.

Metro Manila is the world capital of flooding. I'm not exactly proud of that. Thus, we are so used to flooding, accepting it as our lot as a people, we are so glad and thankful and grateful that it floods in our neighborhood only when it rains.

The problem is, we can't make flood control into a business. You can't make money out of it. It's one case it's all up to the government, like national defense. You can't privatize the Armed Forces. You can't use BOT for flood control.

Thus at the root of it all is the problem of funding. We simply do not have the money to pour into all those flood control projects. So you ask me, can the MMDA do it better than DPWH?

Well, does the MMDA have more access to funding than DPWH? There's your answer.

UMC LINEUP EXPANSION

Nissan Motors Ltd. of Japan president and CEO Carlos Ghosn (center) and Universal Motors Corp. officials discussed the expansion of UMC's light commercial vehicle lineup. With Ghosn are (from left) Bryan Lee, director, UMC; Norio Matsumura, EVP, NML Japan; Elizabeth H. Lee, SVP, UMC; Richard Lee, president, UMC; Toshiyuki Shiga, SVP, NML Japan, and Rodrigo Janeo Jr., SVP for finance UMC.

Rockwell's debt papers downgraded

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE Rating Services Corp. said it had downgraded its rating of the long-term commercial papers of the Lopez-owned Rockwell Land Corp.

The agency is also reviewing the rating of the LTCPs of publicly listed First Philippine Holding Corp., another Lopez firm.

In a statement issued yesterday, Philratings said it had revised to PRS Ba the rating of Rockwell's remaining P1.67 billion in LTCPs maturing in 2002 to 2004.

The PRS A rating for FPHC's outstanding P800 million LTCPs falling due between November 2003 and January 2004 was still under review.

The rating actions, Philratings said, was in light of the default on the interest payments by Benpres Holdings Corp., the flagship holding company of the Lopez family, which holds a 24.5-percent stake in Rockwell and a 44-percent stake in FPHC.

The PRS Ba rating on Rockwell's LTCPs means: "(The issue) is judged to have speculative elements . . . Often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate and thereby not well safeguarded."

Philratings said the new rating reflected Rockwell's weakened financial profile brought about by the continued low demand for residential properties and commercial lots.

As a result of a slowdown in sales, weak property prices and an increased debt level, Rockwell incurred a net loss of P791 million last year.

The ratings agency said Rockwell's immediate concern was the quarterly repayment of its LTCP's until 2004 and meeting its other maturing short-term debt amounting to P2.2 billion, of which P714 million was obtained through a syndicated term loan that will fall due in December this year.

MWC inks its first foreign loan deal

MANILA Water Co. (MWCI) signed its first international loan agreement involving a fresh $20-million floating rate loan financing package from the Deutsche Investitions-und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH or the German Investment and Development Co. (DEG) of Cologne, Germany.

The loan agreement is a component of a planned $130-million financing package that will be used to finance the water company's P10-billion capital expenditure program over the next five years. The 10-year loan is a milestone in Manila Water as it represents its first international loan agreement and DEG's first water project in Asia.

DEG is a fully owned subsidiary of the KFW Group, one of the largest state banks of Germany and is actively involved in over 100 countries.

Manila Water president Antonino T. Aquino and chief finance officer Sherisa Nuesa signed the loan documents recently with Dr. Winfried Polte, DEG CEO and chair, and Klaus Overbeck, SVP for new business.

Aquino described the loan as the start of a "meaningful and mutually rewarding" banking relationship. He expressed confidence that the company would be able to fund its P10-billion capital expenditure program over the next five years.

The $20-million loan provides for a three-year availability period. It has set new benchmarks in corporate rates at 2.5 percent points over six-month dollar LIBOR, at a time when sovereign and some prime corporate spreads are at about one to 2 percent points higher.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, July 10, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.75	29,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46.5	45.5	46.5	195,500
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	2,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29.5	30	29.5	30	480,700
First E-Bank Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	35	34	34.5	348,900
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	20,500
Security Bank Corp.	14	14.25	14	14.25	31,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	12,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1340	1340	1340	1340	410
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1035	1035	1035	1035	280
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	2,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	1,070,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	515	520	515	520	14,440
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	1,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	1,000,000
Piltel	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	40,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	335	335	325	327.5	94,980
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.013	0.014	0.012	0.013	23,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	7,300
Manila Electric Co. B	28	30	28	29.5	836,800
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.82	1.74	1.76	5,887,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.78	20,380,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	610,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.44	2.5	2.42	2.42	414,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	350,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.32	2.6	2.32	2.6	105,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.3	2.34	2.3	2.34	24,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	6,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	31.5	31.5	124,400
RFM Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	48	47.5	48	33,300
San Miguel Corp. B	53.5	54.5	53.5	54.5	101,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	13,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	981,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.28	2.26	2.28	4,006,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.36	0.38	0.35	0.38	6,320,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	1,100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.3	1.26	1.3	332,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	18.75	19	18.25	18.25	563,500
Ionics Inc.	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.3	22,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.7	160,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.46	0.4	0.46	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	940,000
Music Corp.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.19	390,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,700,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	30	30	30	30	1,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.5	27,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,250,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	300,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	500,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24.5	24	24.25	346,400
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	775	775	775	775	1,200
Jollibee Warrants	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	6.2	5.2	5.7	50,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	3,118,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.18	0.18	10,180,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	4,720,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.36	2.38	2.36	2.38	1,579,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.6	250,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.8	5,805,000
UrbanCorp.Realty Dev. Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	40,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	40,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0026	119,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	16,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,134,190	38,082,370.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	79,143,420	168,846,985.00
PRO	25,792,000	57,548,170.00
Mining	40,090,000	170,000.00
OIL	138,400,000	406,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	284,559,610	265,053,525.00
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	456.73	UP 5.63
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,597.65	UP 18.21
PRO	517.57	UP 8.16
Mining	1,171.87	UP 5.71
OIL	1.17	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	685.55	UP 0.01
Composite	1,153.12	UP 14.69

NO. OF ADVANCES: 33; NO. OF DECLINES: 20; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES. 90; NO. OF TRADES: 1,701

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED independent directors of **Chinatrust Commercial Bank Corp.** were Yung Fang Yang and Rodney Ming-Hsiang Lu.

* * *

ELECTED independent directors of **Metro Pacific Corp.** were Enrique Esteban and Meliton Salazar.

* * *

CITYLAND Development Corp. disclosed that disbursements for **City & Land Developers Inc.'s** Makati Executive Tower project from December 2001 to June 2002 have reached P16.7 million.

* * *

MEGAWORLD Corp. will swap some of its completed residential units in the Marina Square Suites project with commercial spaces that form part of **Fairmont Holdings Inc.'s** ongoing adjacent project under a joint venture agreement previously executed by the two companies.

* * *

URBANCORP Realty Developers Inc. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on July 22, 9 a.m. at the 24/F ExportBank Plaza, Makati City.

* * *

CYBER Bay Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 23, 10 a.m. at the Penthouse of BA Lepanto Building, Makati City.

* * *

ALCORN Gold Resources Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 26, 2:30 p.m. at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Only stockholders of record as of May 17 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

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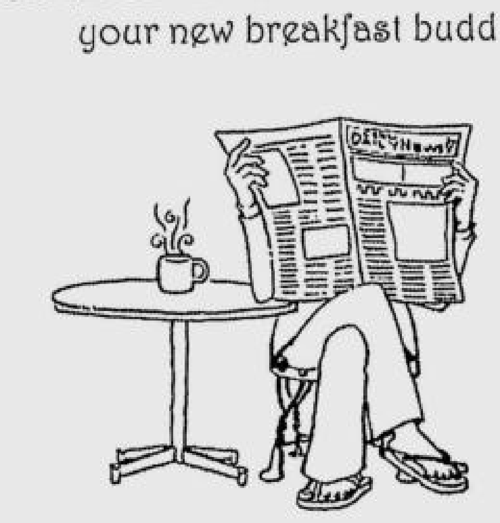

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RP eyes free trade deal with Japan

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES is set to forge a free trade agreement with Japan within the next two years, or well ahead of a proposed broader alliance with the country's peers in Asean.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the Philippines was looking at boosting not only its merchandise trade with Japan but also the deployment of service workers to that country through an FTA with the world's second biggest economy.

Japan Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi raised his country's interest in forming an FTA with the Philippines during his visit here a few months ago.

Roxas said the Philippines has decided to move ahead of the Asean initiative because it was easier to plot FTAs on a bilateral rather than on a multilateral arrangement.

Roxas said the Philippine government was likely to use as model the FTAs signed by the Singaporean government with Japan and New Zealand. Singapore has led the way in signing FTAs with non-Asean countries while Malaysia has been the main critic of bilateral FTAs because it could undermine the Asean Free Trade Area which will start next year.

A government source said that Japan was more amenable to opening up its services sector to Filipinos rather than its highly valued farm sector to Philippine agriculture products such as rice. The source said the country would still push for wider access of Philippine fruits and other agricultural products under the FTA.

The source said the Philippine government was leaning toward forging bilateral trade pacts with developing countries such as Japan rather than with other Asean countries for a regional FTA.

The source said that negotiations for an Asean FTA were futile, considering that Asean could not authorize such a deal without the consent of each member.

Japan is the country's second largest trading partner after the United States. The top Philippine exports to Japan as of the first half last year are semiconductor devices; storage units; finished electrical machinery; machine parts and accessories; and fresh bananas.

DTI may file protest with WTO vs Aussie rule

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is seriously considering filing a formal protest with the World Trade Organization (WTO) against non-tariff barriers imposed by Australia on the country's fresh pineapples.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said this was one of the options being considered by the Philippines following the release of the pre-conditions for the importation of fresh pineapple set under the Final Import Risk Analysis made by the Biosecurity Australia.

Roxas said the DTI had sought the help of the WTO Law Center in filing the protest against barriers-to-trade. Roxas said the DTI was also considering all options both bilateral and multilateral to force Australia to amend the stringent pre-conditions.

Roxas said Philippine farmers were disappointed with Biosecurity's pre-conditions because these were too stringent and directed mainly at limiting the import of fresh pineapples into Australia.

Philippine farmers were reluctant to some of the pre-conditions specifically the de-crowning of pineapples (which shortens shelf life) and fumigation. They also urged Australia to consider alternatives to methyl bromide.

The DTI had previously asked Australia to consider adopting equally or more stringent measures in other countries where Philippine fruit exports are shipped to without any hitch. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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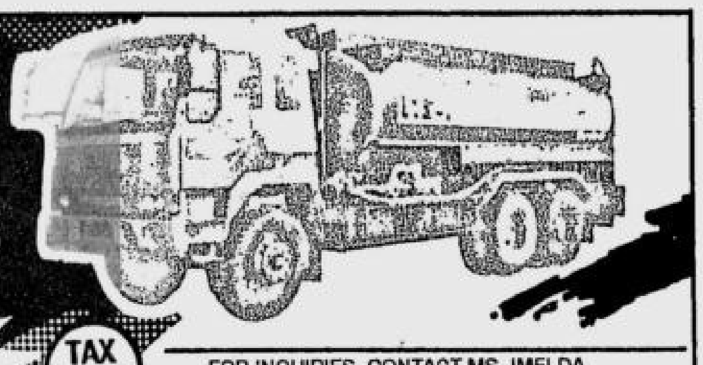

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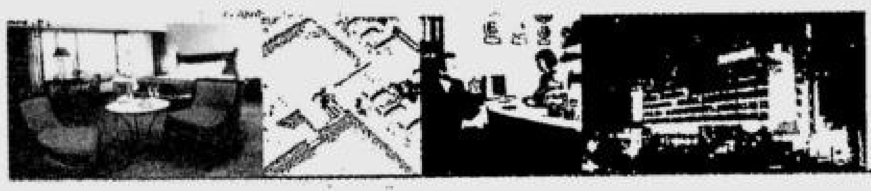

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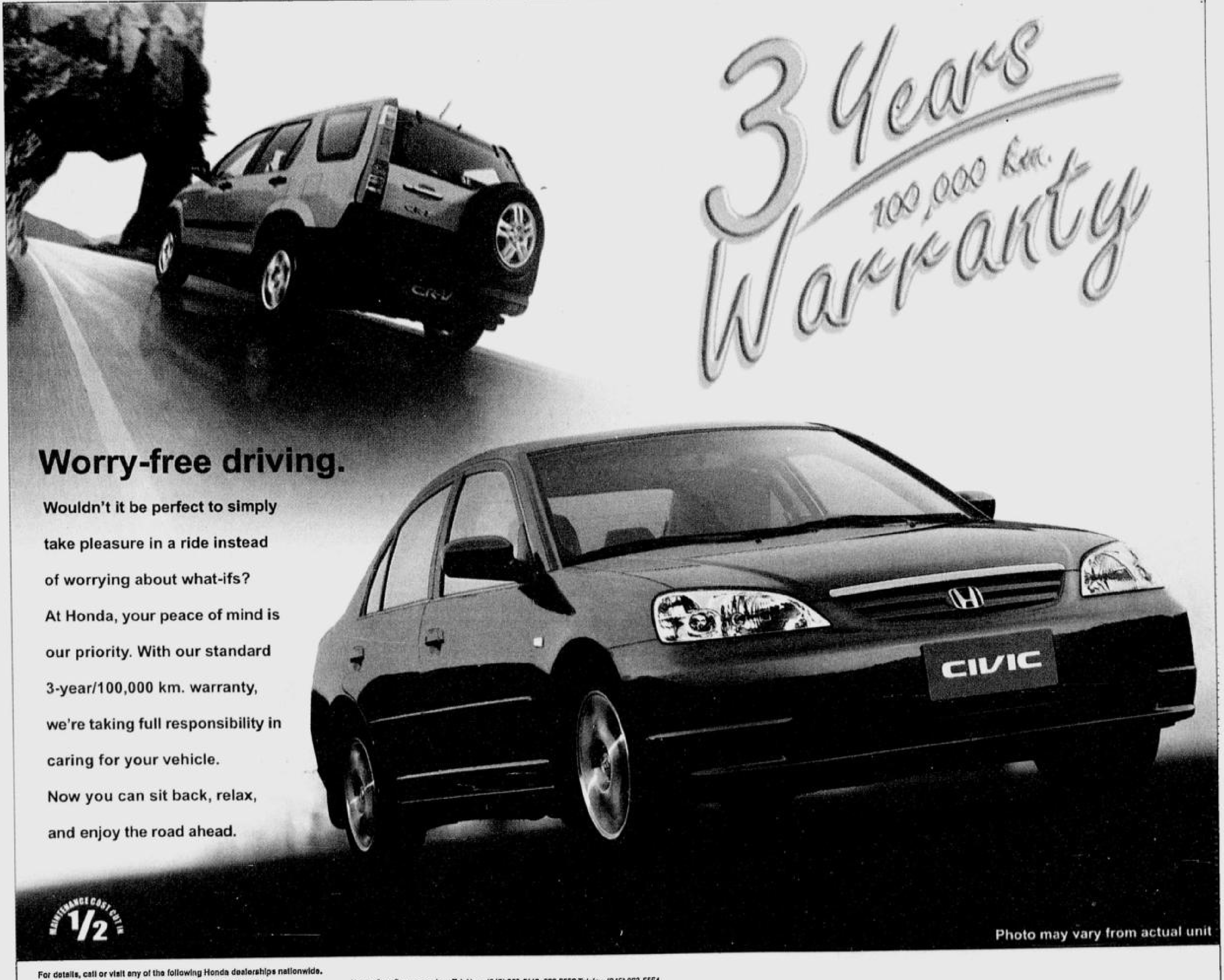

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People, Events & Products

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Apodaca named Eupen chief

EUPEN CABLE Asia Inc. (ECA) and Eupen Marketing Asia (EMA) announced the appointment of Ernesto M. Apodaca as chair of the board of directors and executive committee of both ECA and EMA for 2002-2003.

Apodaca was a former management executive of two American oil companies, namely Esso, (now Exxon), Standard Eastern, Esso International and Unocal Corp. (Philippine Geothermal Division). He also served as president and board chair of DBA International Consultants Inc. for 10 years, and as vice president of Saztec Philippines. Apodaca was a former chair of the Philippine Trade Mission to China, and served as a member of the Philippine Trade Mission to Taiwan.

Apodaca has been active in numerous professional associations, serving in his capacity as either president or director. Some of these associations include the Purchasing Management Association of Los Angeles, the National Association of Purchasing Management of the United States, Council of Management Educators, and the Association of Marketing Educators Inc. Apodaca has undergone management training at the Harvard Graduate School. His research studies and publications include a textbook, a reference book and a trade book in management.

At the same meeting of ECA and EMA, Alfred C. Vargas Jr. was elected as vice chair of both companies. Vargas was the first president and director of Eupen Cable Asia and Eupen Marketing Asia. Vargas played a key role in the establishment of both ECA and EMA in the Philippines.

Eupen Cable Asia is the first and only fiber optic cable plant in the Philippines. ECA is outfitted with state-of-the-art production and testing equipment. A well-equipped laboratory ensures control of all cables being processed and produced. All materials used are all pre-qualified. ECA uses online process control and intermediate product testing to ensure a comprehensive product monitoring in the whole cable manufacturing cycle.

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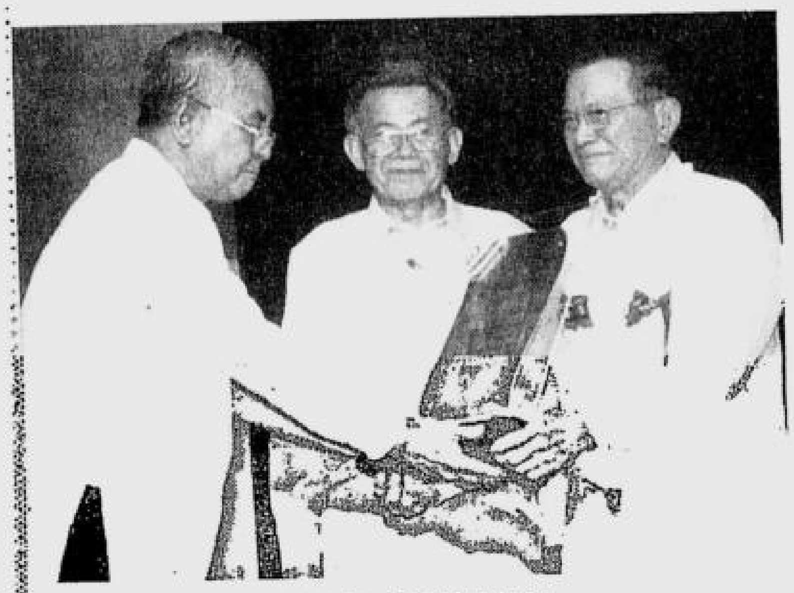
PLDT PARTNERS WITH BAYAD CENTER

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co recently joined Bayad Center, 'Your One-Stop Payment Shop' from Corporate Information Solutions Inc. (CIS). The partnership of PLDT and Bayad Center commits convenient, accessible and reliable Payment Collection Service to all PLDT bill payers. CIS launched the Bayad Center in 1997 to provide a worry-free bill payment solution for collection-intensive businesses such as utilities, communications, cable, Internet, insurance, and banking and finance companies. At the contract signing were (from left) Jonel Ladaban, PLDT assistant vice president for National Retail Credit and Collection, Ricardo Sison, PLDT first vice president for national retail services support sector, Anabelle Chua, PLDT first vice president for corporate finance and treasury sector, Ma. Asuncion Quizon, CIS executive vice president, Deborah Enriquez, CIS vice president and director for Bayad Center, and Aida Yuvienco, CIS senior manager for Bayad Center.



MOST DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Former Vice President Salvador H. Laurel was recently conferred the Most Distinguished Alumnus Award by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association for his services to the country "marked by sustained superior performance and a record that is excellent and untainted; for authoring five Laurel Laws thus enhancing equity in the courts of law; for his pioneering work in free legal aid and for living up to the standards and ideals of his Alma Mater.' Laurel (right) receives the award from UP president Francisco Nemenzo (left). Witnessing the presentation is lawyer Eduardo Hernandez, president and chair of the UP Alumni Association.

Yves Saint Laurent sunglass collection

TOM Ford has imbued Yves Saint Laurent with mystery and sensuality. Now he brings these qualities to his designs for the new Yves Saint Laurent Sunglass Collection for men and women.

The 25 styles, several of which have been featured on the Yves Saint Laurent runway, are bold but resolutely simple, such as a modern reinterpretation of the classic aviator. The sleek, straightforward lines are designed to complement men and women alike, with molded plastic and metal frames surrounding lenses in shades of inky black, dark chocolate, rich plum, mirrored chrome, or a transparent lens that shades to gray.

Unique to Yves Saint Laurent is the new streamlined version of the house's iconic rectangular black plastic frames. Reinterpreted as sunglasses, the frames are fashioned from Optyl, a highly resilient plastic that is used for other variations on the rectangular frame.

Optyl is also used to shape a series of mask frames, which take their inspiration from ski goggles. In these aerodynamic styles, the thinnest band of shiny chrome, black metal, or black Optyl floats over lenses in olive, plum, black, or mirror, held close to the face by the slimmest of temples. In another stylish variation, a frameless mask rests on the nose with only a narrow bridge of chrome.

Understatement is an important part of the Yves Saint Laurent mystique, so logos are used sparingly. The celebrated YSL is engraved on the temples of select frames, and Yves Saint Laurent subtly graces the lens on a discrete number of aviator styles.

BIOMERIEUX INAUGURATES RP OFFICE

Biomerieux SA (Philippine representative office) recently inaugurated its local office at the 11th floor of Pearlbank Center, 146 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Present during the celebration were the firm's top executives and business partners with French Ambassador Madam Renee Veyret as guest of honor. The Philippine office was formed after Biomerieux SA, a top French corporation, acquired Dutch corporation Organon Teknika, creating a new force in the field of diagnostics that will supply local health care with world-class equipment and reagents. Here, Veyret and Biomerieux SA corporate vice president and Asia Pacific president Frederic Benoliel cut the ribbon during the formal inauguration.

GSIS LEADS IN IT SOLUTIONS

GSIS had a chance to showcase its new IT initiatives—the interactive website eGSIS and SMS inquiry system Infotext—at the recently concluded e-Gobyerno trade fair in SM Megamall. eGSIS allows GSIS members to log onto the GSIS website www.gsis.gov.ph and verify the status of their personal accounts with GSIS. Infotext, on the other hand, is a system that allows GSIS members to check the status of their loans through text messaging. Both innovations were launched last month during GSIS' 65th anniversary and were on display at the GSIS booth at the fair. Here, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia (right) chats with IBM Philippines country manager Jack Hamill (center) and GSIS VP for IT services Benjamin Vivas at the GSIS booth.

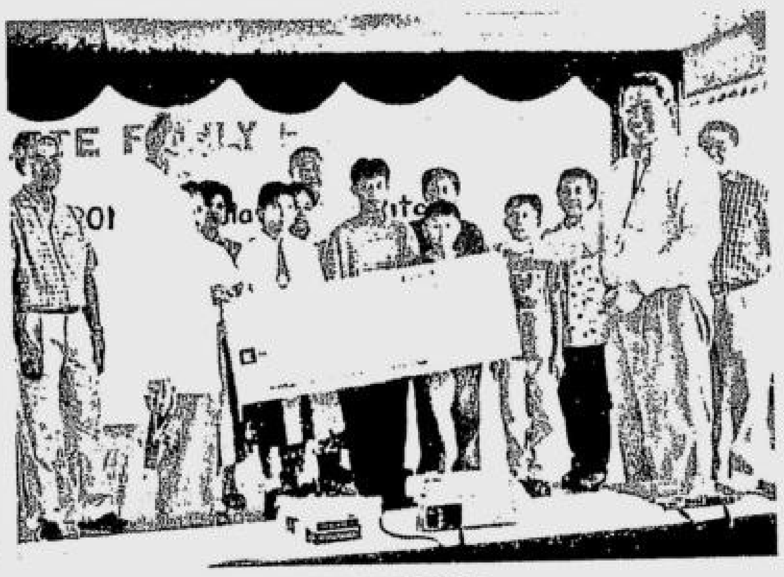
Coffee connection at Delifrance

TAKE time out and enjoy a refreshing, relaxing, reviving drink at Delifrance. While the breads and pastry delights are legendary, don't overlook its first-rate thirst-quencher. All beverages are prepared according to traditional European techniques, yet refined to suit local tastes. Delifrance is launching its coffee line both hot and cold.

Known around the world as the favorite hot beverage, Delifrance only serves freshly brewed coffee. This way you will enjoy your cup that is aromatic, mellow and flavorsome. Perfect during the rainy season, after a hearty meal or probably just while relaxing after a long day at work. You can sit down and enjoy a luscious latte, a creamy cappuccino or perhaps a reviving espresso. By the way, contrary to the misconception that the espresso machine hails from Italy, it was actually invented in France in 1822. Delifrance is also offering Espresso, Classic Cappuccino, Irish Cream, Cappuccino, Hazelnut Cappuccino, Café Mocca and Café Latte.

Coffee has always been associated with good conversation and the exchange of ideas and this has given rise to the expression "coffee culture". This coffee culture is most familiar to the young crowd who enjoys the new blend and flavors of cold coffee. Delifrance is joining the new coffee era with its latest cold coffee line. Get the chills and the high with the famous Delifrappe, which comes in Mocca, Hazelnut and Irish Cream. Soon you will enjoy its newest concoction Hot Café Mocca, Mocca Frappe and Iced Coffee.

Visit the nearest Delifrance café and take a sip of the Delifrance coffee line. Watch out for more coffee flavors coming soon.



DUPONT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

DuPont Far East Inc.-Philippines awards a scholarship grant equivalent to $7,000 to Family Farm Schools (FFS) of Pampamilyang Paaralang Agrikultura Inc. (PPAI). The funds will be used to support a 3-year scholarship for the secondary level of five pre-qualified students in the rural agricultural area. The unique agricultural program of FFS is recognized under the Department of Education and the primary objective is to offer relevant, quality education to children of poor farmers in every agro-industrial community in order to provide opportunities for an improved and sustainable community development. For more information, visit http://familyfarmschool.zibyschool.com. The grant is one of many DuPont sites worldwide supported by the DuPont Community Fund, a program that has provided over $2.7 million for innovative programs that address community sustainability in the areas of social progress, economic success and environmental excellence.

BITS Clips

Meditation class

A BEGINNERS' session will be held on July 14, Sunday, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Sikatuna Village, Quezon City. With a modern psycho-spiritual approach based on "A Course in Miracles", the level 1 session will teach proper posture and breathing, and how to concentrate. Reserve early due to limited space, at 925-2795, 0917-6089625, or e-mail amelia33@yehey.com. Instructor Amy P. Cavosora has theological education and Catholic charismatic experience. One-on-one sessions for guided meditations and healing are given by appointment.

St. Stephen High '77 at 25

CLASS '77 of St. Stephen's High School will hold its 25th anniversary celebrations on July 13, Saturday, at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel Rizal Ballroom. Rekindle old friendships and connect to the future. Raffle prizes, games and giveaways await class members who attend. This year also marks the 85th foundation year of St. Stephen's High School and the class organizing committee has prepared a program to pay tribute to the school for the glory of God. The organizing committee is calling all Class '77 members to get in touch with Angelie (373-7135), Sally (633-4213 to 18), Moses (734-9088/9114), and Rosie (244-8189).

Jinx Ltd, Bluebirds '67 reunion

THE JINX LTD and Bluebirds High School Batch '67 of Lourdes School Quezon City will be holding a grand reunion on Friday, July 12, at the Forest Grill Restaurant at 12 Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati from 7 to 12 p.m. LSQC instructors, class advisers, school officials and other alumni have been invited. Entertainment for the evening shall be provided by the Diabolics and the original Jinx and Bluebirds Singing Groups. Members of both sections are requested to call for confirmation and attendance and for an update of the class directory. Call Rey Quiason at 410-2804, Butch Lat at 929-1471, Ada Dacanay de Leon at 931-1065, Boy Zapata at 655-7857 and Jane (secretary) at 655-2687. Master of ceremonies is Ada Dacanay de Leon.

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Apr. 30,2002

MSV DRAW

DTI director Arnaldo del Rosario (right) is seen with Heidee Yumul and Dottie Pineda of Bookware Publishing Corp. during the monthly draw of the Nokia 8310 raffle promo held recently at the company's offices in Pasig City. For the readers of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks, the lucky winner is Imma Joromal of Ozamiz City. For inquiries, call 631-8893 to 94.

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2002

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Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 725

Series of 2002

AMENDING THE REVISED IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 957 AND BATAS PAMBANSA NO. 220

WHEREAS, the HLURB Board approved the revised Implementing Rules (IRRs) and Regulations for PD 957 and BP 220 through Res. Nos. 699 and 700, respectively, both Series of 2001;

WHEREAS, in the light of the mandates of the HLURB, this Board and the HUDCC jointly conduct continuing dialogue/consultation with stakeholders to harmonize housing policies, rules and standards in support of recent policy pronouncements of the administration;

WHEREAS, pursuant to existing laws, particularly PD 1308, otherwise known as the Law Regulating the Practice of Environmental Planning Profession in the Philippines, and the Rules and Regulations promulgated by the Professional Regulations Commission pursuant thereto, the scope of practice of environmental planning includes, among others the preparation of conceptual schemes and site development plans for subdivision projects for residential and other urban uses; and the signature of licensed environmental planners is required to be affixed on said plans;

WHEREAS, this Board fully supports the immediate implementation of Executive Order No. 45, prescribing time periods for issuance of housing related certifications, clearances and permits and imposing sanctions for failure to observe the same;

WHEREAS, various groups of real estate developers have brought to the attention of HUDCC and this Board issues relative to the implementation of the revised IRRs for PD 957 and BP 220;

WHEREAS, upon thorough review and evaluation of the issues raised by the developers' group, as well as the rational and basis of their concerns, this Board finds some of their requests reasonable;

WHEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, as it is hereby RESOLVED, that the following amendments to the revised implementing rules and regulations for PD 957 and BP 220 approved by virtue of HLURB Resolution Nos. R-699, and R-700, S. of 2001, be APPROVED.

1. That, the price ceiling provision in the revised implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for both PD 957 and BP 220 be deleted but standards as prescribed therein shall remain;
2. That, the provision in the IRRs requiring subdivision owner/developer to register as dealer be deleted and that registration as subdivision owner/developer be deemed registration as dealer;
3. That, the allocation of area requirement for parks and playground and community facilities prescribed for economic housing be amended to read as follows:

Rule II, Section 5.C.1.b.1

b.1 Allocation of Area for Parks and Playgrounds

Table 1: Parks and Playgrounds Allocation

ECONOMIC HOUSING		SOCIALIZED HOUSING	
Density (No. of lots/DU* per hectare)	Allocation (% of gross area for PP**)	Density (No. of lots/DU* per hectare)	Allocation (% of gross area for PP**)
150 and below	3.5 %	150 and below	3.5 %
151 – 160	4 %	151 – 160	4 %
161 – 175	5 %	161 – 175	5 %
176 – 200	6 %	176 – 200	6 %
201 – 225	7 %	201 – 225	7 %
Above 225	9 %	Above 225	9 %

* *Dwelling units*
** *Parks and Playgrounds*

Rule II, Section 5.C.1.b.2

b.2 Area Allocated for Community Facilities

Table 3: Community Facilities Allocation

ECONOMIC HOUSING		SOCIALIZED HOUSING	
Density (No. of lots/DU* per hectare)	Allocation (% of gross area for CF**)	Density (No. of lots/DU* per hectare)	Allocation (% of gross area for CF**)
150 and below	1.0	150 and below	1.0
151 – 225	1.5	151 – 225	1.5
Above 225	2.0	Above 225	2.0

* *Dwelling units*
** *Community Facilities*

4. That, provision requiring planting of trees in areas designated as planting strip be deleted;
5. That, the two (2) year validity of development permit prescribed in the revised IRRs be increased to three (3) years;
6. That, provision on licensed professionals allowed to sign Site Development Plan or Subdivision Development Plan remain, and that architects who are not licensed environmental planners may in the meantime be allowed to sign the said plans for a period of two (2) years from the date of effectivity of the revised rules and regulations;
7. That, the minimum requirement for a 3-meter right-of-way of alley be reduced to 2 meters but the same shall not be used as access to property; and that the 3-meter pathwalk be maintained which may be used only as pedestrian access to property for socialized housing projects;
8. The requirement that structural design consider future provision of loft for socialized housing be deleted;
9. That, DAR Exemption Clearance be deleted as a requirement for the issuance of Development Permit for subdivision and condominium projects, and that in lieu thereof, a zoning certification issued by the HLURB Regional Officer be submitted indicating that the project site is within the area zoned for urban use (i.e. other than agricultural) prior to June 1988;
10. That, all provisions in the revised IRRs for both PD 957 and BP 220 affected and/or in conflict/inconsistent with the above cited amendments be revised and/or renumbered accordingly.

APPROVED this 19th day of June 2002, Quezon City

MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Chairman, HUDCC

JOSE C. CALIDA
Undersecretary, DOJ
Ex-Officio Commissioner

ROMULO Q. FABUL
Commissioner and
Chief Executive Officer

EDUARDO R. SOLIMAN, JR.
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Attested by:

CHARITO B. LANSANG
Board Secretary

(PDI - July 11, 2002)

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Notice is given that the estate of the late MANUEL R. RABAGO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs w /waiver of rights per Doc.136 Page No. 28 Book XXXII Series of 2002 before Notary Public Benjamin T. Arrienda of Manila.
PDI-June 27,July 4&11, 2002

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

PARTOLINS MANPOWER & EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, INC. is now in the process of applying an International License in POEA, for International Recruitment Services (Land Based).

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For further inquiries, you may call us at Tel. No. 656-2403, Telefax 656-6651.
(PDI – July 11, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of LILYBETH OCAMPO VILLARUZ was extrajudicially settled among her heirs per Notary Public ATTY. RAMON B. GATMAYTAN of Mandaluyong, under Doc. No. 343; Page No. 70; Book No. V; Series of 2002. (July 11, 18, 25, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that Fantasy World Stock Cert. #SW14517 in the name of Dan Carlo Collado has been lost. If no contest received, new cert. will be issued
PDI-June 27, July 4, 11, 2002

Notice of Loss - Lost ACR of IKUKO KOBAYASHI If found pls return to Bureau of Immigration or to BOX 38 SILANG CAVITE
PDI-July 11 & 18, 2002

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
PROCUREMENT SERVICE

INTER-AGENCY BID AND AWARD COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** of the **Department of Budget and Management** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 2,100 UNITS PERSHING CAPS** for the Philippine Air Force.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on **July 18, 2002, 10:00 AM** at the PS Conference Room, Second Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal Street, Paco, Manila.

The bid documents shall be available for issuance at the PS-PURCHASING DIVISION starting **July 8, 2002.** The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Cristobal Street, Paco, Manila. Deadline for submission and receipt of proposals shall be on **August 01, 2002** at 2:00 PM.

The approved budget for this contract is P5,184,476.63.

For more information, please call the PS-Purchasing Division at telephone nos. 563-9374 or 563-9402.

DBM-PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation. DBM-PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman

(PDI – July 4 & 11, 2002)

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By BONG BARRAMEDA

Last letter

Q. Why is z the last letter of the English alphabet?

A. English uses the Roman, or Latin, alphabet, which derived originally from the Greek alphabet (the word *alphabet* comes from the Greek *alphabetos*, a combination of the first two Greek letters—*alpha* and *beta*). The letter z comes from the Greek *zeta*, the sixth letter in the Greek alphabet, its last being *omega*, not *zeta*. The Romans dropped *zeta* because it was felt there was no need for it. With time, however, Latin found use for *zeta*, and so the letter was reinstated, but arbitrarily placed at the end of the alphabet, where it has remained.

For the Record. A century before Christ, the Latin alphabet comprised 21 letters, to which *y* and *z* were added from the Greek (Ionian) alphabet. In the Middle Ages *j*, *u*, and *w*, were introduced, giving us the English alphabet we use today. The Roman Empire's thirst for conquest enabled the Latin alphabet to spread across much of the Western world. However, the Phoenician alphabet (c. 1000 B.C.), with 22 signs, is the root of all Western alphabets.

Good Idea. In 1829 Louis Braille, a professor at the French Institute for the Blind, invented a reading-writing system based on raised dots. Braille was the son of a harness maker of a village outside Paris. At the age of 3, while playing in his father's workshop, he drove an awl into his left eye, and in the course of a few weeks went blind in both eyes. Braille's brainchild became the internationally used lettering system for the blind.

WORD WATCH

Básа : from the Sanskrit *bhasa*, "language."

PDI – July 11, 2002

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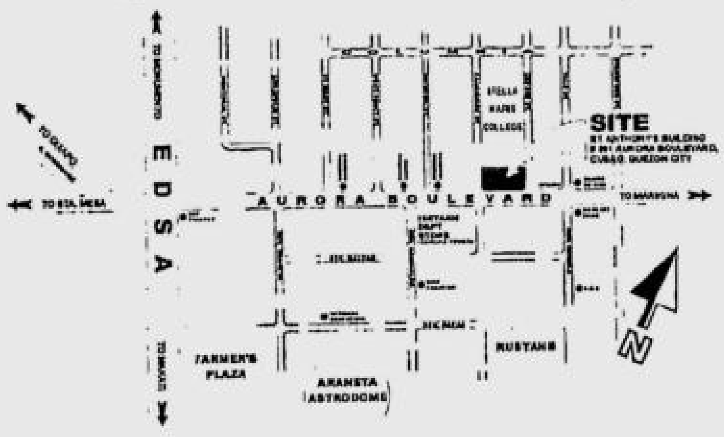

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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF VICTORIA (Laguna), INC. (RBVI)

1. The PDIC shall start claims settlement operations in the closed Rural Bank of Victoria (Laguna), Inc. for the insured deposits with balances over P10,000.00 up to the statutory limit of P100,000.00 per depositor and resume receiving/processing claims for those with balances of P10,000.00 and below.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the designated payoff sites on the dates indicated in the table below. Receiving and processing of claims are scheduled from Monday to Friday during office hours.

RBVI Office/Branch	Payoff Site	Duration of Payoff
Victoria (Laguna), Head Office	RB Victoria (Laguna), Inc. J.P. Rizal Street, Barangay Nanhaya Victoria, Laguna	July 11 to July 24, 2002
Batangas City Branch	RB Victoria (Laguna), Inc. Rizal Avenue corner P. Dandan Streets Batangas City	July 11 to July 19, 2002

After the dates indicated above, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to –

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:

a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) bearing the depositor's specimen signature. Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Victoria (Laguna), Inc. is on **November 8, 2003**. After **November 8, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – July 11, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA
SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of Manila Second Sewerage Project (MSSP) and is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments for the Supply and Delivery of Sewer Maintenance Vehicles.

MWSS now invites sealed bids, under the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedure, from eligible bidders for Contract No. MSSP-5D-1; Supply and Delivery of the following:

Sewer Maintenance Vehicles

Item No.	Description	Qty.	Units
A-1	Vacuum Truck (10 cu.m.)	8	units
A-2	Vacuum Truck (4 cu.m.)	2	units
A-3	Utility Truck	2	units

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

The Manager, Purchasing Department
Basement, Maynilad Water Services, Inc.
MWSS Complex, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Metro Manila Philippines Fax No. (632) 928-2303

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in cash or in check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) in the amount of Php 2,500.00.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than 2% of the bid amount and must be delivered on or before 2:00 p.m. **August 23, 2002** to:

MWSS PBAC
MWSS Engineering and Project Management Department
G/F, Eng'g. Bldg., Metropolitan Waterworks
& Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. No. 922-2569
Fax No. 920-5413

Late bids will not be accepted. The official time shall be based on the bundy clock located at the MWSS PBAC office.

All affiliated companies of the Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) are disqualified from taking part in the bid. Affiliated companies are those over which the concessionaires exercise control of voting stocks or which operate with them as part of a system or enterprise. They shall include, but not limited to those corporations which are subsidiaries, or owned or controlled by the concessionaires, or corporations in which the concessionaires have substantial interest. Bidders are required to submit together with the bid a sworn statement that the bidder is not an affiliated/associated company of MWSI.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives at 2:00 p.m. on August 23, 2002 at the office of the MWSS PBAC, Ground Floor, Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

A pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the MWSS, Deputy Administrator Conference Room, Ground Floor Engineering Building on **August 1, 2002.**

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - July 11 & 12, 2002)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority through the Bids and Awards Committee invites contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Category "B" / Medium "A" for Buildings who had completed similar core housing construction projects (at least 50% of Approved Budget) to bid for the contracts listed below:

Name/Location of Project	Approved Budget	Work Description
1. Construction of 41 Core housing Units, Brgy. Tinago and Talisay MMP Projects, Ozamis City	P3.136 m.	Core housing construction
2. Construction of 40 Core housing Units, Benoni, Mahinog, Camiguin	P3.136 m.	Core housing construction

A. Only contractors duly registered with NHA may be allowed to participate in the eligibility screening. Unregistered bidders must register at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City prior to the deadline of submission of letter of intent (LOI) or not later than July 23, 2002. A list of basic requirements for registration is available at the BAC Secretariat.
B. Eligibility Statement forms as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of Certificate of Registration, LOI and PCAB license. Deadline of submission of duly accomplished eligibility statement form is on July 30, 2002, not later than 10:00 a.m.
C. Bid documents shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 per set.
D. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, manager's or cashier's check only.
E. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 11 & 18 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA
SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of Manila Second Sewerage Project (MSSP) and is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments for the Supply and Delivery of Sewer Maintenance Equipment and Accessories.

MWSS now invites sealed bids, under the **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** procedure, from eligible bidders for **Contract No. MSSP-5D-2: Supply and Delivery of Sewer Maintenance Equipment and Accessories.**

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

The Manager, Purchasing Department
Basement, Maynilad Water Services, Inc.
MWSS Complex, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Metro Manila, Philippines
Fax No. (632) 928-2303

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in cash or in check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) in the amount of **Php 2,500.00.**

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than 2% of the bid amount and must be delivered **on or before 2:00 p.m., August 28, 2002** to:

MWSS PBAC
MWSS Engineering and Project Management Department
G/F, Engineering Building
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. No. 922-2569 • Fax No. 920-5413

Late bids will not be accepted. The official time shall be based on the bundy clock located at the MWSS PBAC office.

All affiliated companies of the Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) are disqualified from taking part in the bid. Affiliated companies are those over which the concessionaires exercise control of voting stocks or which operate with them as part of a system or enterprise. They shall include, but not limited to those corporations which are subsidiaries, or owned or controlled by the concessionaires, or corporations in which the concessionaires have substantial interest. Bidders are required to submit together with the bid a sworn statement that the bidder is not an affiliated/associated company of MWSI.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative at 2:00 p.m. on August 28, 2002 at the office of the MWSS PBAC, Ground Floor, Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the MWSS, Deputy Administrator Conference Room, Ground Floor Engineering Building on **August 6, 2002.**

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI – July 11 & 12, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT II
SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL
Santiago City

INVITATION TO BID

The **SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL,** Santiago City hereby invites interested suppliers to provide medical equipment, drugs and medicines, laboratory. x-ray, medical, office and janitorial supplies to this office.

Only duly accredited manufacturers/suppliers as certified by the DOH may participate in the bidding. Bid documents can be secured from the SIGH HOBAC Secretariat, Administrative Services Section upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 400.00.

ACTIVITY	DATE / VENUE
Deadline of submission of Pre-Qualification Documents	July 17, 2002
Pre-Bid Conference	July 19, 2002 / Conference Room 9:00 am – 12:00 nn
Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids	
1. Drugs and Medicines	July 23, 2002 / Conference Room 9:00 am
2. Office Supplies	July 23, 2002 / Conference Room 1:30 pm
3. Medical, surgical, Dental, x-ray and Laboratory supplies	July 24, 2002 / Conference Room 9:00 am
Post-Qualification	July 26, 2002 / Conference Room

The SIGH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the proposal received, or to accept such bids as maybe responsive and advantageous to the government.

For details, contact Novelinda P. Caleja – HOBAC Secretary, SIGH.

(Sgd.) **ASUNCION N. ABAYA, MD**
Chief of Hospital

(PDI – July 11 & 12, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
MANILA

INVITATION TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of third quarter, Office and Printing supplies and materials for the Supreme Court.

Bids of pre-qualified bidders will be received by the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Taft Avenue, Manila before 2:00 p.m. on **August 7, 2002.** At said time and date, sealed quotations submitted will be opened publicly by the Committee on Bids in the presence of the participating bidders and/or representatives at the Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court.

Interested suppliers/dealers who have not previously pre-qualified during the year 2002 may obtain the necessary pre-qualification requirements from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Office of the Administrative Services, which should be submitted on **July 24, 2002** at 2:00 p.m., Ground Floor, Centennial Building. A Pre-Bid Conference of a qualified bidders will be held on **July 31, 2002** at the same time and place. Only bids of pre-qualified bidders will be entertained at the time of bidding.

Proposal forms, Terms and Conditions and list of office supplies subject of this particular bidding will be furnished to pre-qualified bidders, after payment of a non-refundable P200.00 fee.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

July 6, 2002.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI – July 11, 2002)

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Engr. CESAR FELIPE ALMARIO

of Masbate City

Passed away on July 6, 2002
at the age of 70.

He is survived by his wife Buenaventurada E. Duano and children Butch and Gerry, Jude, Toots & Tim, Czarie & Rico, Ging & Rowena, Chito & Nene, Cesar Jose & Karen, Nila & Carl, Bonbon and Glenn; grandchildren and great grandchildren, brothers and sister. His family requests the pious reader to pray for the repose of his soul in the bosom of his Lord.

The body lies in state at the family residence in Masbate. Interment will take place on Saturday, July 13, 2002

I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.
John 23:43

Leonila de la Llana Sales

of Candelaria, Zambales

Peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on the 24th of June 2002.

Her husband Gervacio N. Sales Jr.; her children Marian & Jonathan Ordillas, Romeo & Myrna Sales, Mario & Ruby Sales, and Alberto & Ma. Paulita Sales and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will lie in state on the 13th of July 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. The following day, her remains will be brought to Candelaria, Zambales.

Interment will be on the 17th of July 2002 at the Candelaria Municipal Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Vincent Parish Church.

"He who dwells in the shelter
of the Most High will rest in the
shadow of the Almighty."
-Psalm 91:1

Genalyn F. Ramirez

passed away July 7, 2002 at the age of 34.

She was the loving wife of VICENTE A. RAMIREZ
the devoted mother of JUSTINE VINCENT,
JORELLE VINCENT and GENINAH THERESE,
the dutiful daughter of
ROGELIO and ADELINA FAMATID,
and the affectionate sister of GILBERT, RONALD
ALBERT and MELROSE.

She will be laid to rest on Sunday, July 14, 2002
at the Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio
after the 2:00 PM Mass at the St. Michael's Chapel.

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Amanda Capistrano Castro

June 9, 1926 - July 9, 2002

Her bereaved husband **EUGENIO Sr.**; children **Manuel** and **Connie**, **Everilda**, **Eugenio Jr.** and **Marites**, **Helen** and **Nap**, **Amelita** and **Domingo**, **Lilian** and **Philip**, **Melba** and **Edwin**, **Oscar** and **Olivia**, **Jocelyn** and **Nellie**; grandchildren and great grandchild, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence at Capistrano Compound, 46-A M.L. Quezon Street, Bambang, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on July 14, 2002 at Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Calzadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila after the 2:00 PM Mass at St. Anne Parish Church, Sta. Ana, Taguig, Metro Manila.

"To You, Lord, I lift up my soul."

Engr. Diomedes de Mesa Pulgado

of San Pablo City and Quezon City

Peacefully died in the Grace of our Lord
on July 8, 2002 at the age of 79.

His loving family – wife **Lillian** (†); children **Arline & Johnny**, **Armine**, and **Alita & Jose Luis**; grandchildren **John Edward**, **Maria Rowena**, **Jose Luis Jr.**, **Jose Angelo**, **Jose Miguel**, and **Ma. Luisa**; brothers and sisters **Angelita**, **Armando** (†) and **Illuminada**, **Anita** (†), **Belen** and **Nolasco** (†), **Dante** (†), **Sonia**, **Marita** (†), and **Cesar** (†), – and relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 2, St. Alphonsus de Liguori Church, Magallanes, Makati City. Interment will be on Saturday, July 13, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and eulogy.

Please omit flowers.

In Loving Memory

ENGR. DOMINADOR Q. VALDECAÑAS, JR.

September 20, 1928 - July 6, 2002

His bereaved wife **Caridad**; chidren **Carol**, **Jody** and **Jolly**, **Romel** and **Lizette**, and **Donna**; and grandson **Mico** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Chapel, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 13, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Mt. Carmel Chapel.

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P2-B PAL AGREEMENT

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By Clarissa S. Batino

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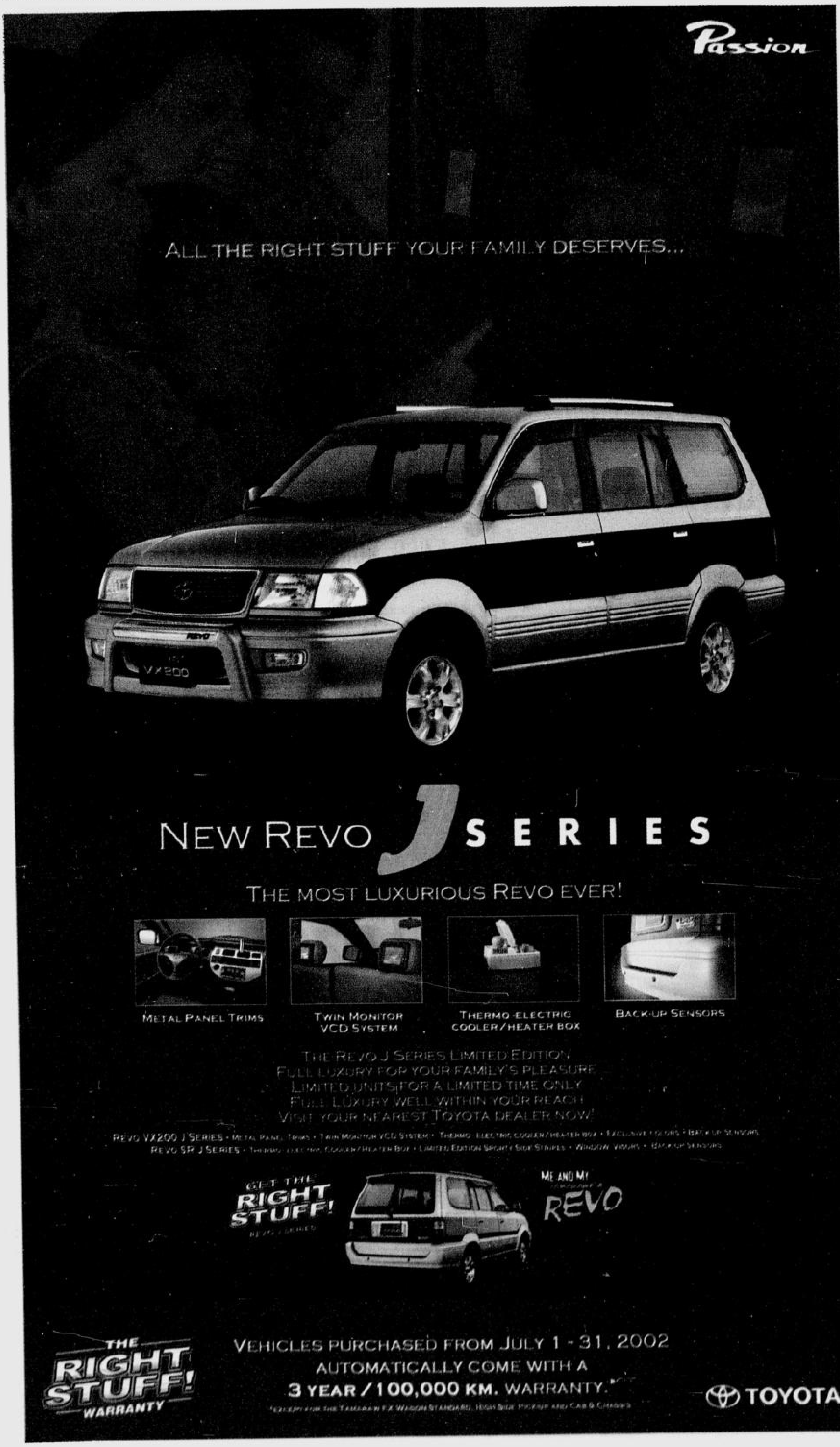

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"The retail sector would be strong and I think the manufacturing too, because of improvement in exports." *Clarissa S. Batino*

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In a bearish market, however, heavy taxation impedes much-needed activities and liquidity, she said.

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"If the country is indeed not ready for open skies, our policymakers should say so and prevent that trigger from going off, but if it can't be stopped, then our policy makers should (formulate ways) to cope with it," Chua said. *Abigail L. Ho*

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BUSINESS

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For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

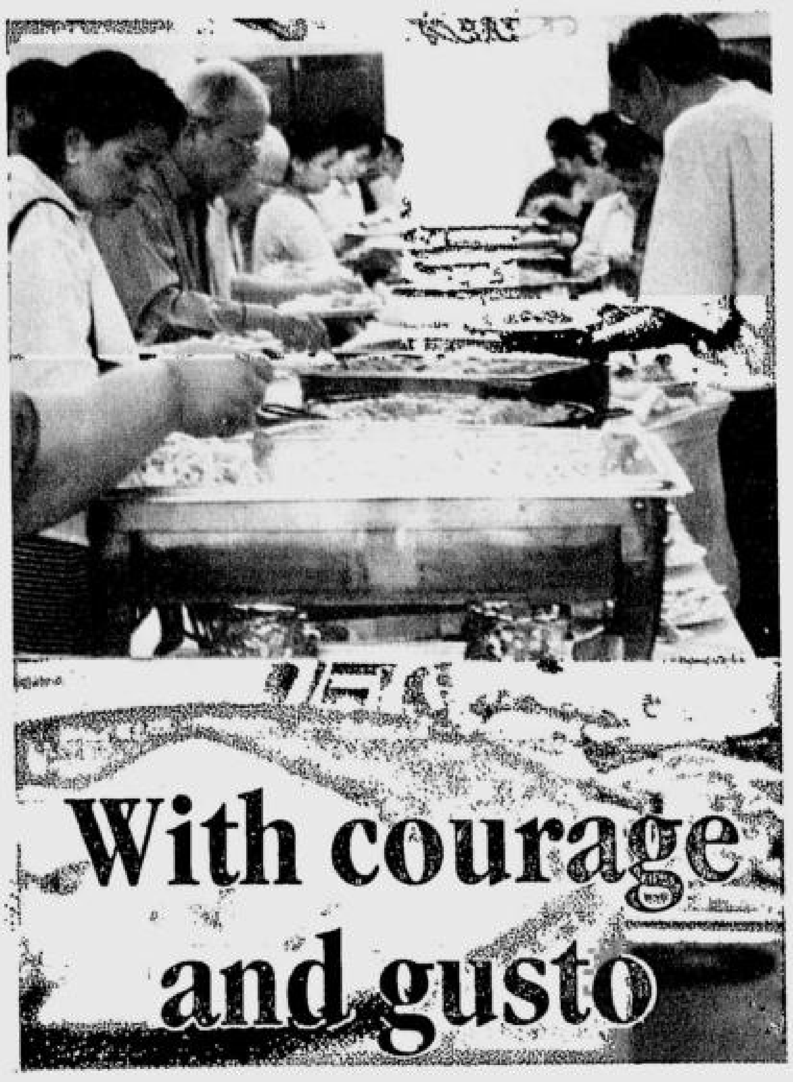
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Tribute to Doreen Fernandez

READERS of her In Good Taste column know Doreen Fernandez as a food critic whose views were as consequential as they were delightful. But Doreen was also a devoted friend, a well-loved academic and mentor to some of the country's more exciting writers, educators and media people. She had touched the lives of many such that the news of her death unleashed an outpouring of grief, encomiums and reminiscences. Ever faithful to her dictum of good taste, INQUIRER Lifestyle gives vent to that outpouring for one last time.

A LAST glimpse of Doreen Fernandez in a photo taken as soon as she landed in the US in June. Beside it is a moss green urn containing her cremated remains. (Opposite) Saying goodbye to a culinary guru with food.



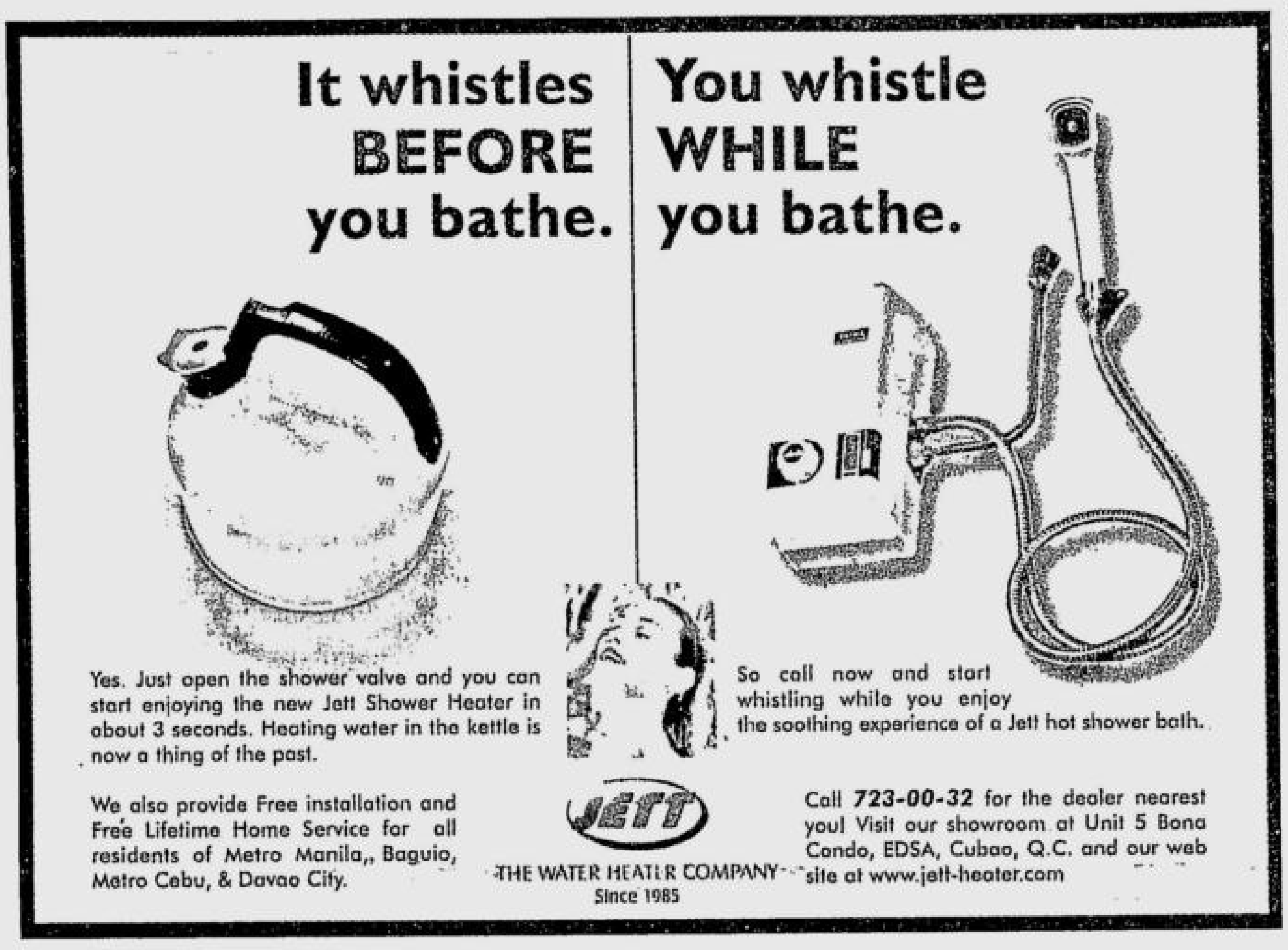
With courage and gusto

By Jonathan Chua
Contributor

"THAT'S good for you. It has good cholesterol." Doreen was telling me to eat the fat off the sizzling *tiyan ng bangus*. We were having lunch at Sweet Inspirations after her class on research methods. She was having her favorite *tapang usa* and was waiting for the crew of "Lasang Pinoy" to come and tape her segment on Philippine sweets.

She was mixing lunch and work again. Doreen's ability to

WITH/ p.C2



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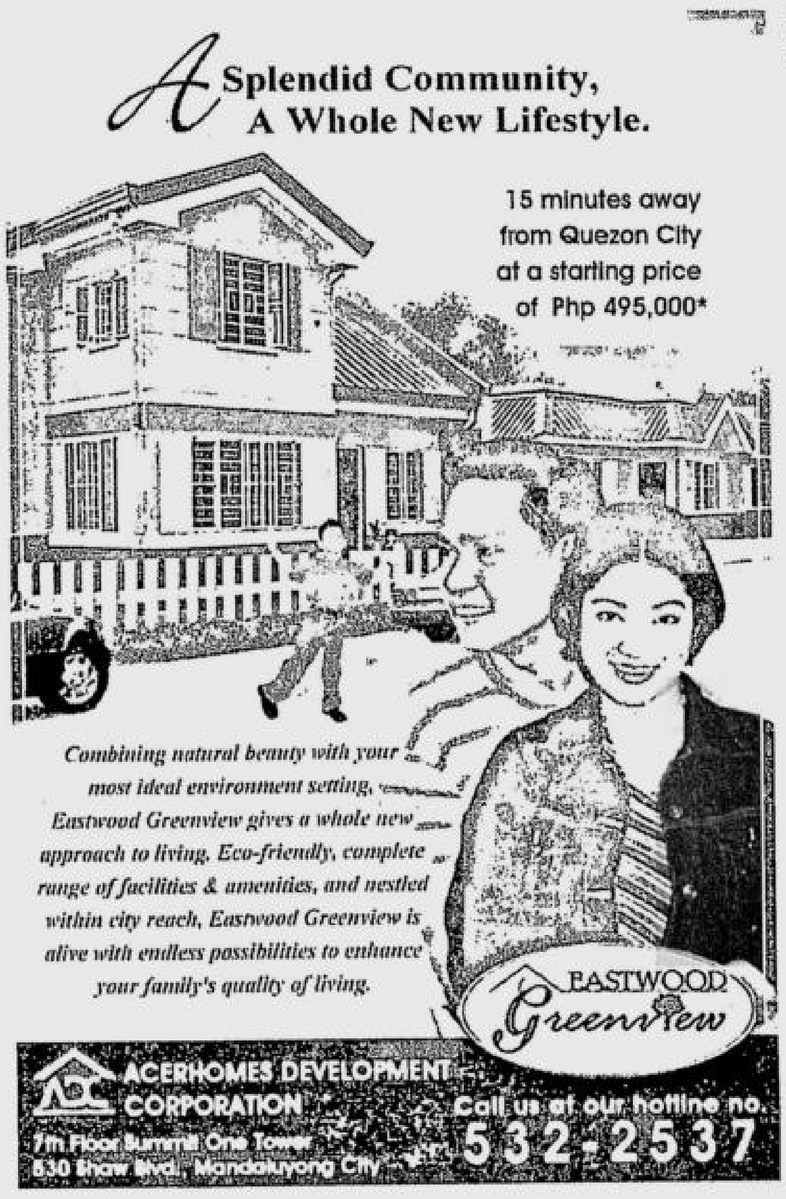

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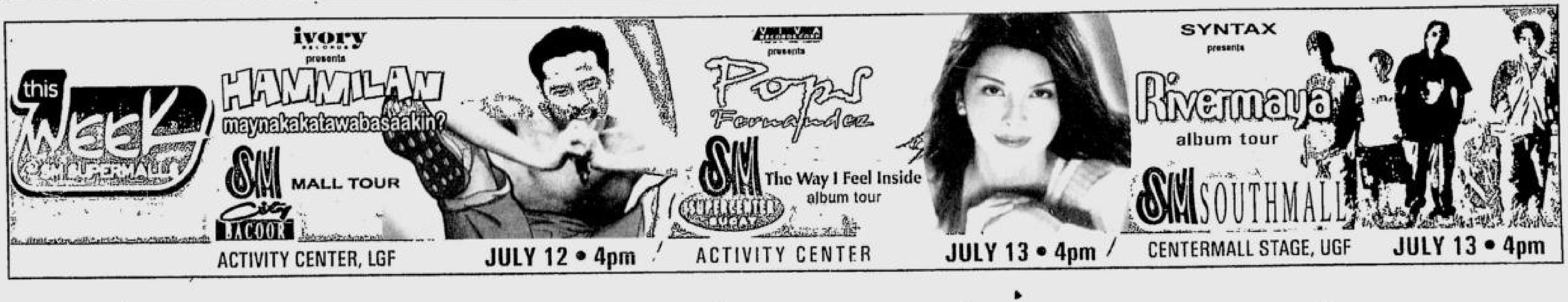

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FAMILY, colleagues and friends send off teacher-historian-writer Doreen Gamboa Fernandez with a touching tribute at the Cultural Center main theater lobby that included a mass, readings...

With courage and gusto

From page C1

work—without ceasing, without complaining—was uncanny. Illness was not an obstacle. When she was confined at the Makati Medical Center in 1998, visitors found her editing the manuscript of the monumental "Kasaysayan" on the hospital bed. She got well in time for the launching at the Manila Hotel. In a pale-colored *kimona*, she said the opening prayer. When she had another serious infection in December two years ago, I caught her just as she was about to be wheeled out of her room for an interview. Make-up, she told me, was waiting for her at another room in the hospital.

Thriving on work

She obviously thrived on work, whether that meant teaching, writing, or researching; and working under pressure, it seemed, was her forte. (After all, her grandmother Olympia was a *revolucionaria* in Silay in the 1800s.) At certain near desperate moments in the making of the CCP Encyclopedia of Philippine Art, she came to the rescue. Editor-in-chief Nic Tiongson was at his wit's end scouting for writers who could meet deadlines *and* style requirements. Many had backed out; others were out of town or had other commitments. If we needed anything, Doreen told us, anything at all related to Philippine writing in English, she would write it.

Write she did. Promptly, at 8 every morning, she turned in articles (on hard copy and on 5 x 5 floppy disk) on, for example, the major works of Resil Mojares, Leopoldo Yabes, Nick Joaquin, and Alfrredo Navarro Salanga ("Alfrredo with two r's!"). They were flawlessly written—WordPerfect in more than one way—and so a joy for Nic, who did not have to do much editing except remove a comma or two. She wrote so many entries so quickly that she eventually ran out of floppies and had to ask us to return some of them.

Even before she left for the United States last May, she was carrying on a number of projects—a book on her late husband's designs, an anthology of contemporary Philippine literature for an Australian publisher, an essay for a festschrift in honor of her mentor and friend Bien Lumbera. Her e-mail to festschrift editor DJ Bayot reveals so much about her work ethic it merits quoting: "I would be honored to contribute to the festschrift in honor of Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera. I will send in a paper—unpublished—on Philippine theater and the nation. I believe I can make the July 15 deadline, but can only attend to this at the end of June, when I get back from the US. Is that all right?"

The spirit was indefatigable, though the flesh, sadly, was not.

Love, they say, transforms; and it was probably her love for what she was doing that transfigured what would have been drudgery for others. It is there in her prose, whether it is a book about the *sarswela*, an essay on the *sinigang*, an e-mail about Naida Rivera's apple pie, or a note of thanks. The words fall "trippingly on the tongue."

Teaching was apparently her way of sharing her love for learning. "I really, really like teaching freshmen," she said in an interview. "Because you're not just teaching them skills, you're teaching them an entire attitude. You're teaching them values, critical thinking, curiosity." What Chaucer (whom she apparently read if one trusts the Rizal Library records) said of the Clerk certainly applied to her: "Gladly wold [s]he lern and gladly teeche."

Shorthand eulogies

Now that she has passed away, it seems that she is still at it. Shortly after her demise was announced, we got a series of texts that were apparently eulogies in shorthand. They were succinct, sincere, and in some cases a little saucy—the way Doreen would have wanted them. Neil Garcia, for instance, wrote, "A great loss, but she must have chosen to go that way, in the clasp of the life she elected." Oscar Campomanes texted, "What I've always loved about Doreen is how she has stuck by the pleasure principle." Christine Ortega described her death as "quiet and dignified, befitting her status as writer of this country." And Wendell Capili noted how she "moved and touched all sectors and people of all sexual preferences, from the *uma* to the *parloristas* to academia."

Without trying, Doreen made eulogists of friends (and in the protean language of *textese*) just as she had made writers and scholars of students at the Ateneo—"productive," to quote one more text, "to the last."

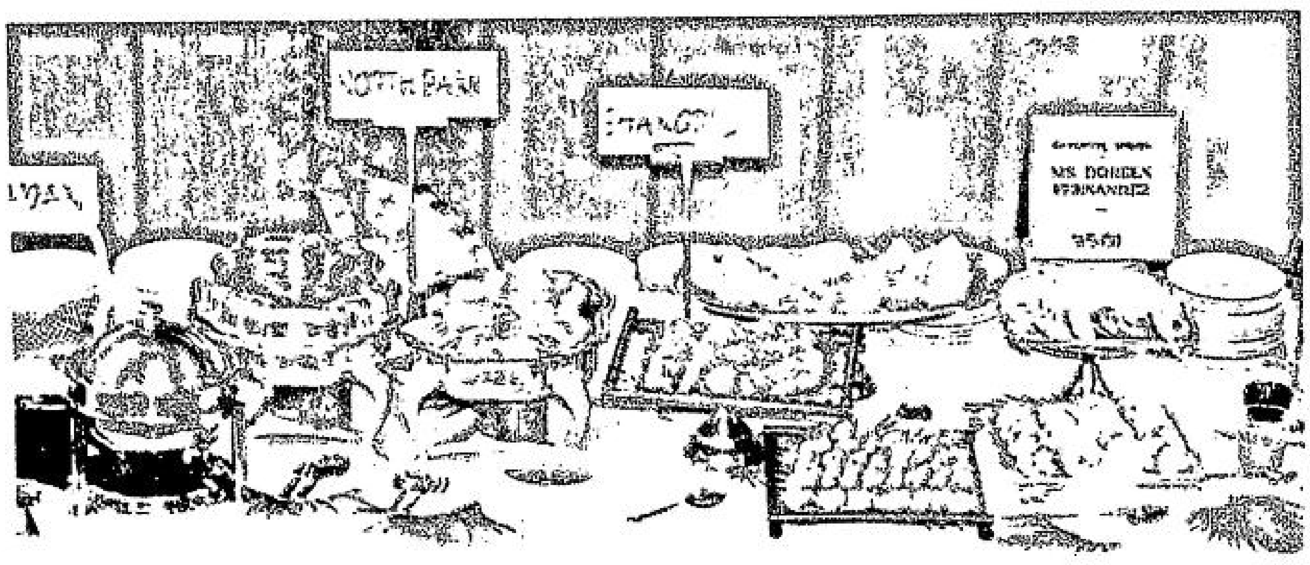
My last lunch with her was at China Bistro, a few days before she left for the US. Earlier that day, we visited Franz Arcellana to ask him about a blurb he had written for "The Critical Villa." She brought him some beef *tapa* (from Singapore), as he had apparently asked her to do—but no, no, he said in a voice that Doreen described as "oracular," he didn't ask for *tapa*, not the kind you could eat. He wanted *tapa* cloth, the type you could hang on the wall. (She would give him an Egyptian bark painting two days later.)

At China Bistro, we had the usual *hakaw* and scallops and shark's fin, but the house specialty was genuine *shao long pao*, a dumpling of meat and broth filling. (The broth is "wrapped" while it is frozen; the steaming melts it, so that when you hold the dumpling up with your chopsticks, the bottom quivers.) She ate it the way I was told it should be eaten: you pop in an entire *pao* (wrapper, meat and broth) and bite. The flavors explode in the mouth, indulging eager tongue, feeding hungry body.

"*Masarap*!"

It is not the most glamorous way of eating, and if one wasn't careful, one could burn the tongue or even choke. But what a metaphor, it now seems, for the way Doreen G. Fernandez lived: with courage, with gusto.

Jonathan Chua teaches the Great Books, literary research and composition at the Ateneo de Manila university, where he once sat in Dr. Fernandez's class on scholarly methods. He edited "Feasts and Feats: Festschrift for Doreen G. Fernandez.."



...AND a foodfest befitting the country's most popular foodie, courtesy of her chef and restaurateur friends

DOREEN'S mother Alicia Gamboa, 94

BROTHER Danilo Gamboa

SISTER Della Besa

It was probably her love for what she was doing that transfigured what would have been drudgery for others

BERNARDO Ma. Perez, O.S.B. with Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J.

PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO AND JOAN BONDOC

CHEFS Ed Quimson and Le Souffle's Jessie Sincioco set up the Santuario de San Antonio dinner after the mass and novena for Doreen.

BIEN Lumbera

SANIROSE Orbeta and Via Mare's Glenda Barretto, who set up the CCP feast

ANVIL'S Karina Bolasco and Karla Delgado

Friendship with no end

(Eulogy given by Eugenia D. Apostol at Doreen Gamboa Fernandez: In Memoriam, CCP, July 5, 2002)

IT IS both easy and difficult to talk about Doreen as my best friend.

Easy, because she did this all for me less than two years ago at the Aliw Awards, where she introduced me as her best friend bar none.

We met thru Wili; they used to come to our house in Singalong after I featured him in the Manila Times as interior designer for Aguinaldo's department store.

My husband Peping was into construction, and later found himself executing some of Wili's designs for his clients. Wili and Doreen got married and we were a foursome dining together, going to disco and to Hong Kong, and even playing mahjong on weekends.

At the mahjong table, Peping would be slow and deliberate. Wili could read the tiles expertly through his touch; I was a demon at winning, and Doreen was a retard, a perennial loser.

One day we went to the reading dynamics office of Aurora Roldan and had ourselves tested—Doreen scored in the high 90s and I was in the mid 80s. So there was no doubt—although I was 10 years older than her, Doreen was superior in talent. But envy never came into the picture.

She followed me through my journalistic voyage through the Manila Times, the Manila Chronicle, Mr & Ms and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Always she responded to assignments on interior design, food and education, meeting all deadlines even while she was studying for her doctorate degree, researching on cultural projects and writing books.

On the fifth anniversary of the Inquirer in 1990, Doreen was asked to do a piece on the paper and me, and we sat down for an interview, the outcome of which was titled "The Movie in my Mind." As the subject of that interview, I could not ask for more, but objectively it was a journalistic model.

So how did it all come about?

In Doreen's words: It all merged together, you see, into a kind of seamless friendship.

Good Housekeeping decided to feature us as friends and asked us one question: Why are you still friends, why do you stay friends? And we both, right away, said: No demands. We don't demand from each other. We just are.

Now comes the difficult part—how to end this speech, which I was instructed to do in only three minutes.

I'd like to add that I don't think there is an end to this friendship despite what happened at the New York Presbyterian Hospital last June 24.

Why, only three days ago, I was in the midst of a crisis to bring a very important document from the Department of Justice at Padre Faura to Makati.

There had been a delay and it was 8:35 a.m., and I had only 25 minutes to meet the nine o'clock deadline. So the lawyer who was driving the car heard me pray out loud, "Doreen please help us by keeping the green lights going for us." And she did, through Harrison Boulevard, across Taft, all the way to South Superhighway, across San Andres then Vito Cruz, left on Kamagong—no red lights for us, only green. We made it in good time, thanks to Doreen.

If she can help us with electrical impulses, what will she not do for friends in need of the right journalistic, literary or cultural vibrations?

Yes, this friendship goes beyond the grave—or in this case, beyond the crypt. May I seal it with a kiss of this flower.

Unforgettable meals with unforgettable Doreen

By Jonathan Best
Contributor

JOHN [Silva] and I enjoyed many unforgettable meals with Doreen as she dutifully reviewed food for her popular column in this paper. We were her happy food tasters as she carefully orchestrated the selection of entrées to facilitate her comprehensive and thoughtful reviews. Over the years, we traveled with her around the country and dined with her at fancy five-star restaurants and obscure provincial markets.

Watching Doreen work was instructive for any writer. She arrived early, interviewed the chef or restaurant owner, took copious notes, checked spelling, took photographs and asked for a copy of the menu. Her knowledge of good food and cooking was formidable. No matter how delicious the food, however, the focus of our friendship and our conversation was mostly about books, writing and Philippine history and culture. While we ate, we chatted about past and future writing projects, recent publications and old friends around the world.

Doreen loved to travel and had a worldwide network of friends she had acquired over a lifetime. Before we knew her well she had traveled extensively with her husband Wili Fernandez as his interior design business expanded from Manila to Hong Kong, Singapore and Jakarta in the '70s and '80s. Travel for Doreen meant new food adventures, new friends and new bookshops to peruse for Filipiniana books. As Wili's health slowed him down, Doreen's career as a writer and educator took her to more and more foreign destinations on her own.

US destinations

She spoke at the East West Center in Hawaii when Philippine Studies was just beginning to be taken seriously in the United States in the early '80s. In Berkeley, California, she discovered the wonderful bookshops on Telegraph Avenue. She hunted for rare and out-of-print material on Philippine history and picked up the latest publications on writing, teaching methods, and of course, food lore. Berkeley was home of Alice Water's famous Chez Panisse restaurant, the official birthplace of "nouvelle cuisine." John had the rare pleasure of taking Doreen to Chez Panisse on one of her annual visits to California. Across the Bay in San Francisco, she introduced us to succulent Than Long Crabs, seasoned with black pepper and rock salt and swimming in melted butter. She tipped us off when these delicacies first appeared in the Bay Area at a little restaurant far out in San Francisco's foggy "Avenues."

Doreen was an old friend of the Netzorgs who ran Cellar Books in Detroit, the largest bookshop specializing in out-of-print Philippine titles in the US. When Chuck died in the early '90s, Doreen was the first to let me know when his legendary reference library, numbering in the thousands, came on the market. She was constantly trying to bring important research material back to the Philippines for scholars to use here.

New York was her favorite American city, not just for of its endless array of ethnic food and some of the finest restaurants in the world. Doreen had had an early background in music and theater and loved the rich cultural life New York had to offer—the concert halls, the finest avant-garde theaters, and countless bookshops and museums large and small. At our last lunch together in Manila in May, she was delighted at the prospect of returning to New York despite her frail health.

European stops

In Europe, Doreen also had her regular stops. In recent years, she became an annual speaker at the prestigious Oxford Symposium on Food. While in England, she enjoyed visits to London with its lively theaters and rare bookshops, which offered earlier Filipiniana material than could be found in the US.

In Paris, she stayed with her longtime friend Marietta Enriquez-de La Haye Jousselin, to whom she had remained close since they taught together at St. Scholastica's in the '60s. Just this year, Marietta was finishing work on her own mother's wartime diaries, which Doreen was helping her edit. Doreen traveled to other cities in Europe, most notably in Madrid, where she found a very rare black and white edition of Father Blanco's "Floras de Filipinas" in a small shop near the Palazzo Real. One of her greatest finds as a book collector. Years later, she gave me the proprietor's name, and when I entered, he immediately remembered her.

FRENCH FRIES
FRENCH FRIES
COLD DRINKS

DOREEN with Ron Koustas and Charlie Quintos in the St. Anthony's Festival in New York City

She opened windows to the past and illuminated the future

Almost poetry

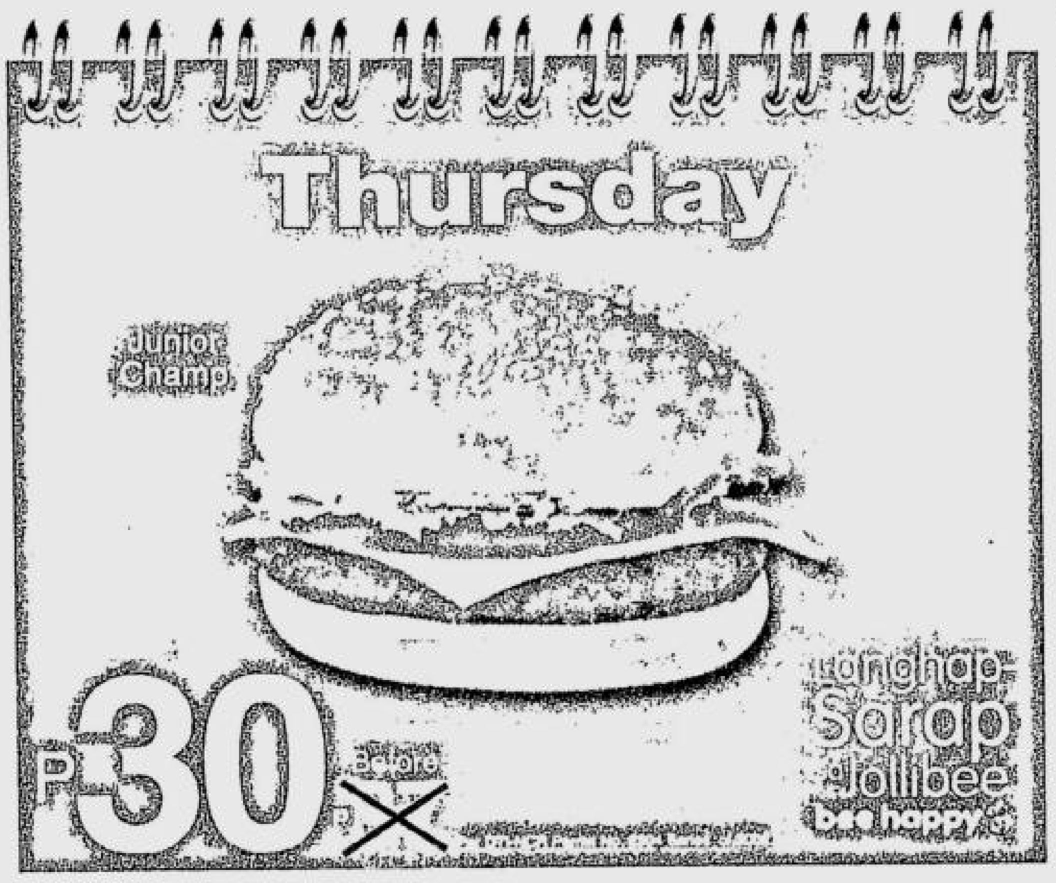
In 2000, Doreen produced her classic history of Filipino food, "Palayok," and asked me to find illustrations and write a short essay on how Filipino food was illustrated over the years. John Marin Flores, a former student of Doreen's from Ateneo, created an elegant, large format book design that handsomely complemented Doreen's succinct and highly articulate prose.

"Palayok" is much more than a simple history of food. Through food, she was able to describe the many influences, both local and foreign, which have combined to create the rich melting pot of Filipino culture.

As I read the typescript for "Palayok," it was fun to imagine Doreen's gentle voice narrating the text. She enjoyed stringing adjectives and nouns together, pushing prose almost to the point of poetry with a quiet, slightly lilting cadence, deliberately retaining melodic traces of her Ilonggo dialect.

What Doreen has left behind, besides her many fine books and articles, is a determined love for Philippine history, which she was able to convey to her friends and many, many students over the years. Through food, literature and the theater, she opened windows to the past and illuminated the future for us all.

Jollibee
DailySpecials



In her own words

From page C4

be high cuisine. I try to write about wine, although I don't know very much about wine. I try to show how everything fits into the culture. I keep trying to put food in context.

Who are the food critics abroad whom you feel are close to what you're doing?

One of my idols is MFK Fisher. I really wanted to meet her, and I had found someone who could introduce me, but then she, MFK Fisher, I mean, died. Also, early in my career, I found a book called "Food in Chinese Culture." I told myself, "Someone should do something like this about Filipino food." With much less footnotes, though, like Waverly Root—oh, I love Waverly Root! So scholarly, yet whimsical, sometimes!

I also want food writing to he something you can almost taste. I want the reader to feel pleasure reading it; I want to make the reader hungry. That's where everything I learned as an English major comes in. Thus I can write about food without using only food words. I can use words from literature, from painting, from music and so on, to bring the whole experience across.

I want to emphasize the Pleasure Principle; that must always be there.

What people seem to like most (is) about your newspaper column writing style. Was it a deliberate choice to write that way?

Oh, yes! Clarity is very, very important. I don't consider myself a writer, but more of a journalist (you just have to get the message across). But I must admit that after learning how to use the computer, I began to feel like a writer. You can toy with the words, polish them, weigh them... then, I began to feel, "Hey, it's fun to write!"

But yes, I deliberately set out to be clear. My idol in writing is Horacio de la Costa. His writing is always clear, and you can't add or subtract a word. And I want to communicate with a lot of people—housewives, foodies, teenagers... whatever. Clarity is really important. I'm not even trying for style; if possible, I try to avoid adjectives.

How long does it take you to write?

If I eat a good meal and go home, I can write a review about it in half an hour. But sometimes I have to read up; do some research. The research can get difficult. There aren't many books on Philippine food.

There are some treatises by nutritionists, and then there are essayists and novelists who put food in their work, and so I get it from there. And then I read foreign sources, of course, to get a sense of perspective. For example, if I wrote about *camote*, I'd look it up in Waverly Root. For Asian food, I hunt for sources in Indonesia and other Asian countries, for parallels—*sinigang* and *kinilaw*, for instance. It's very much primary research, and very rewarding. I'm using the techniques that Horacio de la Costa taught me for History, in fact.

If you hadn't done what you're doing now, what would you be doing?

The food writing was really accidental; I just stumbled onto it. Everyone says it's such a great job, and I agree: It's a great job. As for being a teacher, I can't imagine what else I'd be doing, really. I can imagine not writing, perhaps, but I can't imagine not teaching. I don't know why.

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What a poetic day to go!

By Rene B. Javellana, S.J.
Contributor

WHEN we recall the day Doreen died, I say what a poetic day to go. June 24, three days after the summer solstice, when fairies and unseen sprits roam the earth and work their magic as Shakespeare celebrated in "Midsummer Night's Dream." June 24 which Christians designated as the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist to counter the pagan celebration of the summer solstice. Solstice, when the sun stood still to welcome the verdant lush of summer. When the sun stood still to welcome Doreen home.

What a poetic day to go! For one who lived with the word, crafted the word and taught others how to be artisans of nouns and verbs (Doreen avoided adjectives, she said).

Like George, whose classes I took over when he had open-heart surgery many years ago, I also took over Doreen's journalism class when she was ill in December last. It was a graduate class on "Writing about Culture," a field where she was a master. At the end of the semester, I told Doreen, who had regained her strength enough to visit and eventually teach at the Department of Communication, that her class was tough and rough on the teacher. Ran as a writing workshop, I had to plow week after week through a stack of more than two dozen essays written by students from all over Asia; there were Koreans and a Japanese in the class. And Doreen had been teaching this course and similar ones for decades.

> She was there taking notes, asking for copies of the menu, prodding them to eat what she could not, asking for comments

Real teacher

Teaching Doreen's class reminded me of the patient Jesuit regents who set me on the path of correct writing. These regents would return the carefully corrected juvenile compositions we would dutifully submit week after week. But this was the only way to learn the craft, by slow, painful stages of trying, failing, being corrected and trying again. Doreen belonged to that old-fashioned type of teacher who had *malasakit* for her students, not the newfangled type who dazzles with verbiage and jargon, who spews theories to mesmerize students while judiciously avoiding the more uncreative and odious task of correcting papers.

I was never under Doreen in any of her classes, but Doreen was a real teacher for me. In an interview with Clinton Palanca for Pen & Ink, Doreen said she could not conceive herself as anything but a teacher. Although in that interview she claimed that her lasting legacy were her books, I think most will remember her as teacher. As teacher she nourished her students, encouraged their talents to grow. Although she had no children of her own, the Comm kids referred to her as "Mommy." "*Nandyan na ba si* Mommy?" "*Kailan papasok sa opisina si* Mommy?" they'd ask the secretary. Even the staff at the Comm Department called her "Mommy." I suppose she knew this. Or maybe not?

I read almost all the books of Doreen, except "Writers and their Milieu" and "Tikim" (I don't think I have finished reading all the essays in it). The books reveal why Doreen was such a great teacher. She was also a great student. Her works on drama, literature, cuisine and culture are based on original research. Take away the "re" and all you have is "search." Fundamentally, that is what a student is—one who searches. Not one who has all the answers but one who knows there is more, more to find out. More to learn.

Food trips

Doreen's search was not without risk to her health. Being diabetic, her research on cuisine involved her "destroying the evidence," "ingesting the culture." She did her research, carefully injecting herself with insulin in preparation for the assault on the palate and the digestive system.

I fondly remember some adventures on food with her. Some were short trips, like the visit to Claude Tayag's Balai Dutung and the excellent spread Claude had prepared. But two of my adventures with her were grand, like the expeditions of Hillary to Mt. Everest, or the Apollo mission to the moon, because these involved extensive trips of island hopping or driving, spread over almost a week each.

The first grand expedition with Doreen included in the party, Lory Tan (the organizer), chefs Larry, Glenda, Claude, hangers on Cora Alvina, Kukay and myself. The expedition started in Bohol with an early breakfast at MR, a *sutokil* (*sugba-tola-kilaw*) restaurant at the pier, then a trip to Dumaguete where we were housed at Bethel Hotel, run by a group of born-again Christians. Dumaguete involved shopping at the market with the great chefs, a late lunch of seafood prepared by the chefs at Labas. A trip to the Wednesday market for varieties of *lechon* and in between breakfast of thick *tsokolate-E* and *budbud kabog* at Potsky at the Dumaguete market. I did not finish the rest of that trip because I had to fly to Cebu for a wedding. I heard glowing reports of the rest of the trip, including a stop at the *kinilaw* master who inspired Doreen's book on the cuisine of freshness.

DOREEN with her Ateneo students at Balaw-Balaw restaurant

***INIHAW* INSPECTION.** Doreen with (from left) Claude Tayag, Kukay Fragante, Tommy Tse, Kelvin Kwan and Jessie Sincioco

A second trip was to Mindanao. This brought us to General Santos where the Alcantaras' Saranggani Farm treated us to a medley of *bangus* cuisine, plus a tour of the high-tech fish ponds. Visit to the fish market of Gensan. A taste of sergeant fish. Then it was off to Davao, where Margie Moran Floirendo was our host at the Floirendo plantation and Nenita's. In Davao we ranged through upscale cafés and restaurants to the *ihawan* stalls near the cathedral, to the durian market, the Chinese restaurants. I do not recall who was with us, I suppose it was the original Visayan expedition group, less Cora Alvina, plus John Silva.

In these trips, Doreen was there taking notes, asking for copies of the menu, prodding us to eat what she could not, asking for comments. Those trips are unforgettable, because of the cuisine but more so because of the company. Doreen's presence made sure that the expeditions were not just an epicure's delight but were windows to the richness of Philippine culture, a land blessed with the abundance of sea and land. Ever inventive and resilient.

I will miss dining with her. We, the Comm Department, will miss departmental meeting with her at Alba's and Le Soufflé or simple lunches at the department with the Country Club's signature *inihaw na liempo*.

Special gift

Doreen has given me a special gift for which I will remain grateful. Two years ago, Felix Miguel, Jason Moss, Ouie Badelles and myself had a project for the Negros Museum. Invited by Doreen's sister-in-law, Lyn Gamboa, we spent some time in Silay in the same compound where the art deco house built by Aguinaldo Gamboa stood. This was the ancestral home of Doreen.

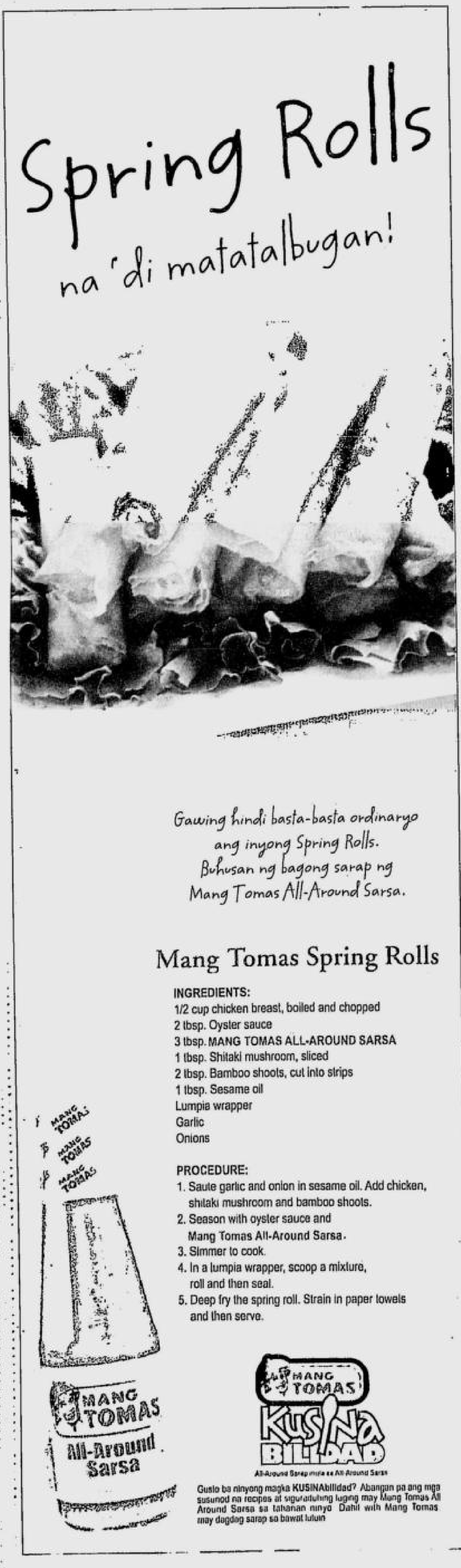
In that genteel city, there is a street named Cinco de Noviembre. Doreen wrote an essay telling the story behind that street's name. Nov. 5, 1898 was the day Negros declared its independence from Spain. The Negros *revolucionarios* devised a ploy to make the Spanish governor and the military capitulate without firing a single shot. It was the first bloodless uprising in the Philippines, antedating Edsa by almost a century.

The Negros Museum had made a diorama of this event and produced a video. Our project was to make a children's book for the museum. Early this year, I received letter from the International Board of Books for Young People (IBBY) that the children's book we made Cinco de Noviembre had been listed as one of 135 outstanding children's books for the year 2000-2002. The award is scheduled for late this year in Basel, Switzerland.

This book has its roots in Doreen's own search on why a street in Silay is named after a date in the calendar. This book, named after a date, is Doreen's gift to me; no, to us—to Felix, Jason, Ouie and myself. Not just to us, but to Tita Lyn and Tita Cris, to the staff of Negros Museum. Yes, to the children of Negros and the children of the world as the 135 outstanding children's books are traveling around the world.

Salamat gid, Doreen.

Fr. Rene Javellana is currently in Japan on a Nippon Foundation study grant.



Spring Rolls
na 'di matatalbugan!

Gawing hindi basta-basta ordinaryo
ang inyong Spring Rolls.
Buhusan ng bagong sarap ng
Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.

Mang Tomas Spring Rolls

INGREDIENTS:
1/2 cup chicken breast, boiled and chopped
2 tbsp. Oyster sauce
3 tbsp. MANG TOMAS ALL-AROUND SARSA
1 tbsp. Shitaki mushroom, sliced
2 tbsp. Bamboo shoots, cut into strips
1 tbsp. Sesame oil
Lumpia wrapper
Garlic
Onions

PROCEDURE:
1. Saute garlic and onion in sesame oil. Add chicken, shitaki mushroom and bamboo shoots.
2. Season with oyster sauce and Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.
3. Simmer to cook.
4. In a lumpia wrapper, scoop a mixture, roll and then seal.
5. Deep fry the spring roll. Strain in paper towels and then serve.

MANG TOMAS KUSINAbilidad
All-Around Sarap mula sa All-Around Sarsa

Gusto ba ninyong magka KUSINAbilidad? Abangan pa ang mga susunod na recipes at siguraduhing lagìng may Mang Tomas All Around Sarsa sa tahanan ninyo. Dahil with Mang Tomas may dagdag sarap sa bawat lutuin

In her own words

By Clinton Palanca

BY THE TIME you read this, there will have been so much said, so many words of sad remembrance, so many memories unearthed, about a woman named Doreen Fernandez. No doubt those who did not know her, or knew her only as the food columnist of this paper, may wonder why within minutes of her death the news had traveled around the world, and there were many who put their heads down and began to cry. I was one of them.

If there are those who ever thought of teaching as a profession for ivory tower intellectuals, for those unable to make it in the "real world," a means for bored housewives of passing the time, stop any one of us who has been her student, and ask what being a teacher really means. If there are those who believe the legacy of teaching to be ephemeral, not tangible like a painting or novel, then ask any one of us to explain to you how she has inscribed within our lives an oeuvre more lasting than most artists'. As a historian of the theater, culinary sociological commentator and a professor of Communications, her legacy is beyond question. As a food critic, she was not the best, nor was she the first; she was the only one, and those of us who follow can only write footnotes to what she had begun.

But my eulogy ends here, because I want you to hear her voice one more time. Two years ago I interviewed her for a literary publication, and the following is an excerpt from that interview. Imagine, if you will, a quiet conversation over steaming mugs in her office; she changed so many lives, and it was with difficulty that I managed to ask her to speak about her own.

There are so many different aspects of your life. How would you describe yourself?

I'm a teacher. Basically, completely and thoroughly, a teacher. The other things feed into it or are born of it.

What has your career been like?

Well, I graduated with an AB English and History degree from St. Scholastica's College, then went to the Ateneo for graduate school. But I found that I had a lot of free time, so I went to St. Theresa's to study accounting, because, I thought, I didn't know anything about accounting. Gilda Cordero-Fernando was there, teaching her first course in short story writing; she was pregnant with her first child. She had gathered together the best writers of the school. I said, "Please, will you let me in?" She said, "Well, we're only taking the best writers." I said, "In my last school, I did write..." So they let me in. It was very good. Gilda claimed that she didn't know what she was doing and just read us stories... but she reads very well. I did try to write something, and I got a good grade; but it wasn't a short story. I think I ended up writing an essay.

How did you come to teach at the Ateneo?

I came to the Ateneo not to teach, but to study, to get further courses. My first discovery when I went there was such a thing as Philippine Drama (Bienvenido Lumbera was teaching the course). I had done my MA thesis on Christopher Fry; I really liked drama. But I [didn't] know there was Philippine drama, nor even Philippine literature... I hadn't even heard of Nick Joaquin until Gilda's course! So in this regard, Bien was my first teacher, and he set me on a course for life.

DOREEN smiling from two years ago

When did you start writing about food?

That was around '69, I think. It was actually [for] my husband that they [wanted] to do the column, because he was famous as a gourmet. Geny Lopez was his good friend, and Santi Dumlao; they said, "Write a column that will make people's mouths water." He said, like the male chauvinist that he was, "Sure, I'll eat, and she'll write."

And it was on those terms, really; I could write, but I knew nothing about food. But I talked to him, I traveled, I learned. I asked questions: What's in that? Why is it good? I looked things up, did research.

In the beginning, it was mostly food reviews, saying this restaurant is good or not. Eventually, I began to write more about culture; and these days, I like doing plain restaurant reviews. I write about the spirit of it, and its relation to the culture... I would love to teach a course on food anthropology, actually.

People do know you best as a food writer, although you've done so, so much more. How do you feel about that?

One reason I've persisted doing things about food is that I feel it's a popular and easy way that anyone can look into culture and into themselves. And if I can get people curious about family recipes and hometown recipes and regional cooking, I think I am encouraging them to look at their culture. But, I'm sorry, though, that they don't know that I'm a theater historian, that I write theater criticism and that I'm a teacher.

SCHOLARLY Doreen in younger years

What are the most difficult or interesting aspects of writing about food?

Oh! Well, when I was younger and more arrogant, I thought that you had to reform things, tell "them" how things should be. There's a review that I really regret. I went into this restaurant and it was super-pretentious. There were all these plants, but they were all plastic... it had a very pretentious name, as well. They were serving steak—not very good, and not very well served, either. I said, "Who would come here?" Well, maybe middle-level or low-level executives and their wives in their long dresses, and they'd be so impressed with all this, when the restaurant didn't know the first thing about what they were doing! So I wrote a rather sharp review. But with politicization came the idea, too, that food doesn't have to be the way it is in the best restaurants in Europe. One should put food in the context of the culture.

An example: I remember going out to sea with a fisherman who was a poet. We set out with nothing but a pot of rice and some tomatoes, and we bought all our food on the way, from passing fishermen. And we cooked everything on a bonfire, with those tomatoes for acidity.

I now try to review all kinds: high cuisine, or what's trying to

IN HER p.C3

MOTORING

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

My brief rendezvous with an NGV

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE ENVIRO 2000 the writer test-drove

I WRAPPED my hands around the steering wheel of a seven-seater minivan and gave it a spin lately. The experience was surreal. To put it more precisely in Filipino, *nakakapanibago*.

It was surreal not so much that its engine was running on natural gas, but because I was driving a right-hand-drive vehicle with the baggage compartment as my companion to my left!

My left hand shifted gears as someone from the Philippine National Oil Co., sitting on the baggage compartment beside me, guided my drive and explained the dashboard instruments.

The NGV (natural gas vehicle) engine, as expected, runs serene. The two-liter minivan, which derived its design from a Renault Espace model unit, was imported by the PNOC from Malaysia. The NGV, known as the Enviro2000, was developed by Renault, Matra Automobile and the Petronas NGV.

The NGV engine purrs like a gasoline engine, but is a bit cleaner. Emissions from the Enviro2000 NGV read below the EURO 2 limits. Carbon monoxide emissions are 67 percent lower, while hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxide emissions are 42 percent lower than EURO 2 limits.

6 NGV units

A project of Petronas NGV, the Enviro 2000 NGV Taxi has been in use in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for over two years now. Enviro 2000 would soon be seen in Penang, Johor Bahru and Singapore. Six of these NGV vehicles were imported by the PNOC for a six-month demo. Each unit costs about P1.3 million. If the Enviro 2000 NGV performs well here, expect Petronas engineers to convert the units to left-hand drive with their original conversion kits. These will be used for exhibits and educational campaigns.

Enviro2000 NGV manufacturers in Malaysia have offered to convert the six units to left-hand-drive vehicles, as stressed by PNOC public relations officer Robert Villa Jr.

For now, the six units run within the Fort Bonifacio premises (around the PNOC headquarters) and in Metro Manila on special permits from the government. The full capacity of the natural gas engine is yet to be realized.

Refueling

Enviro2000 sources its natural gas fuel from the Echague, Isabela plant. These minivans, I had been told, had been used as taxis in Malaysia. That fact is evident in the way the interior had been designed.

Because of the limited test-drive space and time, I didn't really get to drive the unit to its extremes. Suffice to say, these figures are on paper. The engine delivers 94 bhp at 5,300 rpm. Its torque is 135 Nm at 2,600 rpm. Its fueling system is called the "multipoint natural gas vehicle injection." Refueling the Enviro2000, they say, is easy. PNOC officials say it takes about 180 seconds to fully fill all the NGV cylinders.

A giant-sized digital odometer, which read 594 km (which means this unit was brand-new), is nestled in a dashboard wide enough to fit a stretched-out child. Just like any other luxury car, the instrumentation panel is ergonomically designed.

The estimated mileage on three full cylinders ranges from 320 km (mix of highway and city driving) to 480 km (with the vehicle running at a constant 90 kph on the highways).

The Enviro2000 NGV's body panel is made of light and durable advanced composite material that is rust and corrosion-free. The hood, meanwhile, is made of metal.

The Enviro2000 NGV has three composite NGV cylinders installed underneath the floor panel. The cylinders are made from high-density polyethylene and wrapped with glass and carbon fiber for added strength and toughness. It is said to withstand extreme weather and environmental conditions.

Like a mini-SUV

The Enviro2000 NGV minivan also feels like a regular mini-SUV. When it was my turn to become a passenger, I found the back cabins comfortable and elegant. It has rear and forward seats facing each other. Another luggage compartment could be found at the rear.

The only problem I encountered while driving, aside from the brakes that seemed to have a subtle delay in response, was the elevated seats at the back that blocked my rear view.

The two compartments would provide storage space of up to 0.33 (front) and 0.20 (rear) cubic meters. PNOC's conversion plans, however, would include converting the front baggage space into the driver's seat, with the right front seat becoming the passenger seat, thereby allowing up to seven passengers (including driver) inside.

The Enviro2000 NGV also features a pneumatic self-leveling suspension that feels like soft air cushioning during rides. I could actually feel the suspension adjusting the vehicle's height every time a passenger embarked or disembarked. The system is based on electronically controlling the inflation of two pneumatic springs.

For motorists who fear their tank of natural gas would explode in the event of a severe collision, PNOC energy research division chief Joy Gonzales reiterated that the NGV employs an automatic fuel cutoff system. In the event of a collision, inertia isolates the fuel supply system.

The NGV also has the antilock braking system that allows the vehicle to be steered and controlled even when the brakes are applied.

Use of NGVs

The use of NGVs in the country (several efforts are being undertaken to convert direct-type diesel engines and gasoline engines to NGV) is expected to start at the energy center of the country. Executives from the energy, environment and the transport sectors, as well as the PNOC, have expressed their desire to use NGVs in the future.

The entry of NGVs not only gives another option for the driving public but also presents a cleaner alternative to petroleum-fueled cars. Not only does natural gas help keep the air clean, it also lessens our country's dependence on petroleum products which we source from politically troubled Middle East countries.

Alternatives to oil

Despite the skepticism on alternative fuels—that they are expensive, difficult to access and their efficacy on present engines in question—there are initiatives to take the country closer to accepting alternative fuels. Despite its name, the PNOC—headed by its president Thelmo Cunanan—is one of the corporations pushing for alternatives to oil.

Other local projects are the commercialization activities of alcodiesel and the establishment of a three-metric-ton plant in Romblon, a strong coconut-producing area.

Isabela State College and the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development are also reconfiguring three diesel engines into natural gas-powered engines. The Department of Science and Technology granted the state college P1.3 million for the conversion project.

There have also been plans on building a natural gas pipeline from Batangas to Manila. The nearest natural gas refueling station is being planned in Batangas.

The future may be exciting for vehicles running on alternative fuels. But there is much to be changed in our present motoring landscape if the future is to be realized. For now, the biggest nightmare for motorists driving NGVs running low on their fuel tanks is: where, oh where, do I stop for gas?

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Backseat passengers must buckle up

By Charles E. Buban

BACKSEAT passengers, who are not restrained, are putting more than themselves at risk since they are potentially dangerous to those sitting in front.

It was two years ago when Republic Act 8750, otherwise known as the Seat Belt Use Law, was implemented nationwide. As the law has indicated, the driver and front seat passengers of a public or private motor vehicle are required to wear seatbelts while inside a vehicle on any road or thoroughfare.

But do you know that even if they do wear their seatbelts properly, these people are six times more likely to be killed in a crash if their backseat passengers are unrestrained? This revelation came up after Japanese researchers studied more than 100,000 vehicle crashes logged by Japan's traffic registry.

Epidemiologist Masao Ichikawa of the University of Tokyo, who led the group that studied the data, reported that the fatality rate in cases where backseat passengers are not restrained was similar to that for front seat passengers who were not wearing seatbelts.

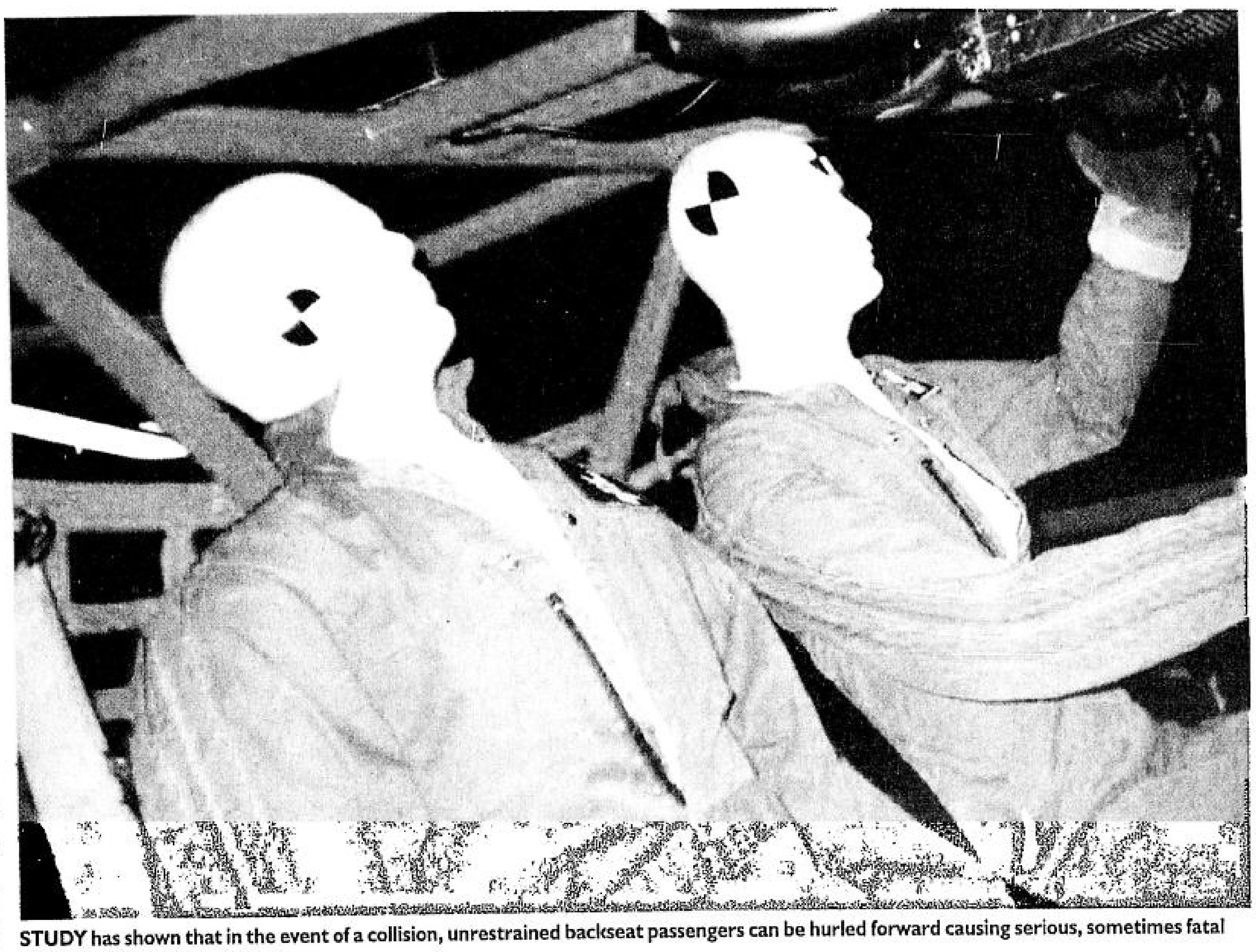
He concluded that the number of deaths in the accidents could have been reduced by as much as 80 percent if backseat passengers had used seatbelts. Overall, deaths and severe injuries could have been reduced by almost 50 percent.

Deadly projectile

Before this study, little is known about the impact of not wearing a seatbelt when riding in the backseat.

Much has been reported on the importance of seatbelts for front seat passengers so they can avoid being thrown from and through their vehicle's windshield during a crash. Although airbags and seatbelts can reduce injury, a lot of people still tend to underestimate what can happen to them during an impact, as they do not understand the magnitudes of the forces involved during this unanticipated event.

Ichikawa's study should serve as a warning to those who have a common misperception that seatbelt safety only applies when sitting in the front seat, as there is no such thing as safety in the backseat as this study has shown.


STUDY has shown that in the event of a collision, unrestrained backseat passengers can be hurled forward causing serious, sometimes fatal injuries to those sitting in front.

The researchers explained that during an impact, backseat passengers can be hurled forward with great force, causing severe injuries to those in front. Imagine a vehicle that is traveling 50 kph is stopped dead, a 68-kg (150-lb) person in the backseat is going to be thrown into the front with an impact strong enough to be deadly.

"In frontal crashes, unbelted rear-seat occupants can be thrown forward, increasing the forces that hit front-seat occupants so effectively, the rear-seat passengers become missiles," Ichikawa said.

The researchers reviewed 103,590 cases of vehicle-to-vehicle crashes that involved cars in which the driver was wearing a seatbelt, had at least two backseat passengers and where all the occupants were injured. Of this group, a total of 211 drivers and 173 front-seat passengers were killed and 1,557 and 1,185 were severely injured, respectively.

Compulsory seatbelt use

The Tokyo study was initiated by Ichikawa's group to provide a basis for making rear seatbelt use compulsory in Japan. According to Ichikawa, most deaths and severe injuries of front-seat occupants of cars would potentially be averted by rear seatbelt use.

Advocates of seatbelt use say that while data from Japan and other countries cannot be directly compared, the study emphasizes the dangers of not wearing rear seatbelts.

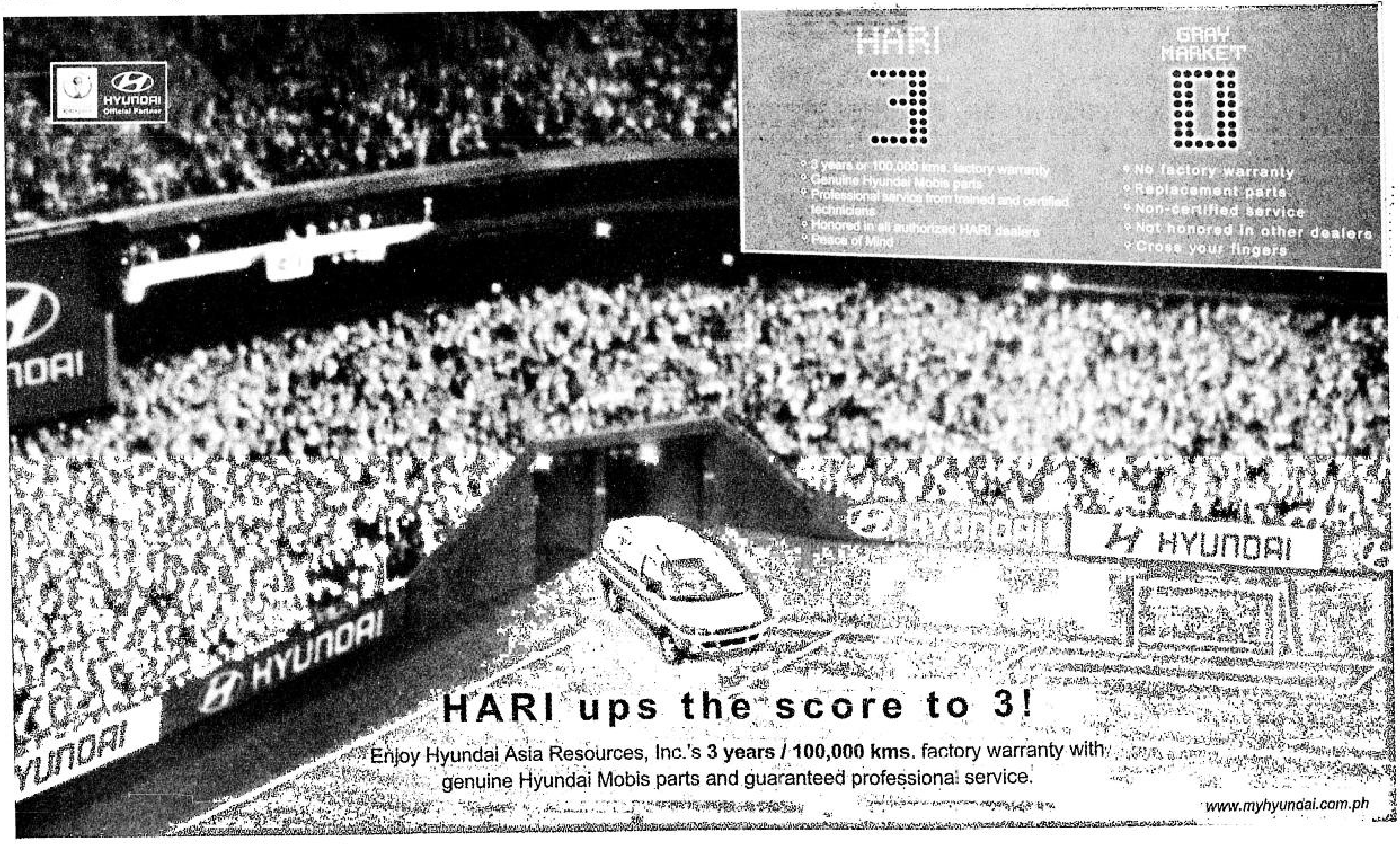
In the United Kingdom, it has been illegal to not use a rear seatbelt since 1991. However, a 1999 survey revealed that six out of 10 British adults regularly break this law. In the United States, seatbelt laws vary from state to state.

Here in the Philippines, the Seat Belt Use Law requires drivers of private vehicles, taxicabs and jeepneys and passengers seating beside the drivers, to buckle up. For passenger buses, the law requires the driver and the passengers from the first row to the third row to wear seatbelts.

Motorists who fail to install seatbelts in their vehicles would be fined P1,000 while drivers caught not using the safety device would be fined P300.

Although there is no law requiring what type of seatbelt should be installed at the backseat, crash test results in the United States reveal that shoulder and lap strap seatbelts in the backseat like the ones used by front-seat passengers are more effective at keeping the occupant restrained during a crash than just a lap belt which a lot of vehicles (especially the older models) are installed with.

In frontal crashes, shoulder and lap strap seatbelts are 25 percent more effective than lap belts alone, according to the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Although backseat lap seatbelts reduce the risk of head injuries, it however, increases the risk of abdominal injuries in potentially fatal frontal crashes. Shoulder and lap seatbelts reduce the risk of both head and abdominal injuries in potentially fatal frontal crashes by 47 percent for head injuries and by 52 percent for abdominal injuries.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What is the best way to lengthen the life of my clutch disc?

—Bench Castro

EVERYBODY knows the clutch is a consumable item and has an average lifetime of anywhere from 80,000 to 160,000 kilometers to it. But with proper care, you can make it last much longer than that.

There are actually two parts of the clutch that wear out. First is the clutch disc—which is basically a metal plate covered in frictional fiber that goes between the flywheel and the pressure plate. When the clutch is engaged, the disc is "squeezed" or "grabbed" between the flywheel and pressure plate, and power from the engine is transmitted to the input shaft of the transmission.

In simple terms, the clutch disc has to be "squeezed" to allow for smooth starts from a stop and for smooth shifting from one gear up or down to the next. The way you ruin the disc is by taking a long time to get into, and out of, each gear. That's called "riding the clutch" and avoiding this is the key to long clutch life.

The other part of the clutch that wears out is the throw-out or release bearing. That's the part that presses against the pressure plate and "releases" the disc. How to help preserve it? When you're driving a manual transmission car and you stop at a red light, simply shift into neutral and take your foot off the clutch.

Of course, some things simply can't be avoided. For instance, city driving usually wears out the clutch faster than long-distance or "super-highway" driving—simply because you have no choice but to depress the clutch pedal more often during rush-hour traffic.

But the worst clutch abuse usually happens when you hold the clutch part-way in to make the car go slower. Under this condition the clutch is continually engaged, and a lot of wear takes place.

Opening private roads to public traffic

On the Road

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE NEW Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair, Bayani Fernando, has been keeping awfully quiet lately on the subject of "color-coding."

When he took over the MMDA last month, Fernando hinted that he would scrap the unified vehicle reduction scheme, euphemistically called "color-coding," whereby motor vehicles are banned from all Metro Manila roads one day of the work week, depending on the ending number of their license plates.

Fernando's appointment to the MMDA cheered up single-car families who are immobilized by the color-coding rule. Hopes ran high that Fernando, as MMDA chair, will abolish color-coding in Metro Manila since he did so in Marikina when he was the mayor of that city.

But now it looks like motorists will have to wait a long time for Fernando to banish color-coding. That's because before he did away with color-coding in Marikina, he opened first the gates of all the private subdivisions and villages there to decongest traffic on the main thoroughfares.

As the late great Frank Sinatra sang in that classic ditty, "Love and Marriage . . . (go together like a horse and carriage): You can't have one, you can't have none, you can't have one without the other." In other words, color-coding won't be removed unless all the gated residential subdivisions in Metro Manila open up first to public vehicular traffic. Maybe this is why Fernando has been mum about color-coding.

Of course, Fernando and the MMDA are doing other things to ease traffic flow in Metro Manila, such as clearing the roads and sidewalks of obstructions, vendors' stalls, squatter shanties, unauthorized signs and billboards, junk and parked cars. Fernando also wants to widen bus lanes since there are more public utility vehicles on the road than private cars.

But the opening of village gates is key to Fernando's traffic-solving plan, inevitably setting him on a collision course with homeowners in gated communities who fear the adverse impact on their privacy, security and environment, not to mention the condition of their private roads. They will surely go to court to prevent the invasion of their enclaves as it would violate the peace and quiet of their communities and expose them to crimes such as kidnapping and theft aside from increased pollution.

But for the moment, the homeowners are limiting themselves to statements of concern while Fernando has kept quiet after (unfortunately?) declaring that "There is no such thing as a private subdivision. . . .We should take out this attitude that we are the absolute rulers of our homes."

The new MMDA chair has going for him his success in addressing the traffic problems of Marikina and in persuading homeowners' associations in his city to open their village gates. He is courting Metro mayors to gain their cooperation and to pass ordinances that would support MMDA projects. He is opening gates to help solve the traffic problems that 10 million Metro Manilans endure daily and is thus acting for the greater good, for the majority rather than the minority who comprise the village-dwelling population.

On the other hand, the MMDA has lost court battles in past attempts to force private subdivisions to allow the public to use their roads. The Supreme Court stopped then MMDA chair Jejomar Binay when he opened Neptune Street in Bel-Air Village, Makati, to public traffic. The SC ruled that the MMDA, lacking the power of eminent domain, does not have the authority to open the gates of private subdivisions and that only the national government and local governments have this authority.

OPENING/ p. D4

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The case against smoke-belching buses

Full Tank

Al Mendoza

BUS operators always find ways to beat the law.

Take the nagging case of the city's smoke belchers.

I must admit our officials have been doing a great job arresting drivers of smoke-belching buses. Sometimes, the routine checks they make cause traffic jams. But I don't mind. At least what they're doing is for the common good of all. A little inconvenience won't hurt. No pain, no gain.

But, alas, pinpointing the smoke belchers is done at daytime. At night, nobody checks/apprehends the smoke belchers. And that's where the problem lies.

Try driving at Edsa or Commonwealth Avenue at night and you will know what I mean.

* * *

Enforcing the antismoke-belching drive is the hardest to do at nighttime.

One, it is not easy making arrests. Just imagine how wild our bus drivers are. At night, they can stretch their malevolence. They might run down an apprehending officer in the dead of night.

Two, how many of our law enforcers will have the courage to work at night? Even if given the green light to do overtime, I bet you they won't bite the bait.

And three, it's impossible to prove at night that a bus is a smoke belcher. Your gadget to detect smoke belchers may not be as effective when used at nighttime. One's vision will be impaired by darkness. No amount of nighttime light can effectively declare a bus a smoke belcher.

* * *

Haze at daytime is already bad. Because of the wanton deployment of smoke-belching buses at night, you will notice how "cloudy" our mornings have become in the metropolis.

My suggestion is, if a bus is declared a smoke belcher, it must be impounded until it has passed the "belch" test.

Our agents testing buses for smoke belching must also be subjected to routine checks by their superiors. This is to do away with bad eggs in the agency tasked to enforce the antismoke-belching law.

Better yet, why not employ a massive crackdown on bus operators suspected of deploying smoke-belching buses? Pay their terminals a surprise visit, with your smoke-belching gadgets in tow. Then test their fleet of buses. I bet you, if this is done soonest, many of our operators will be found guilty. And, instantly, the metropolis will be rid of smoke belchers. And we can breathe clean air again.

As an example, the sheer number of buses that ply Edsa, Commonwealth Avenue and both Expressways *(Sloways pala)* will easily attest to the rapid deterioration of the quality of air that we've been breathing and continue to breathe. Truth is, there's not enough breathing room left for us. That's why every time I get a free time, I rush to the nearest golf course, where trees and greenery give me the feeling (illusion?) that I still live in an atmosphere of cleanliness and tranquility.

* * *

Who said building golf courses is but a waste of money?

Think again, buddies. Golf courses, besides being the No. 1 absorbers of the city's air refuse, also provide sanctuary to our aviary—or what's left of air space where our birds and other flying wonders like bees and beetles and even fireflies and dragonflies and butterflies can really fly as freely and as healthily as they wish.

And, yes, in the golf courses, you now rarely see gasoline-fed golf carts. The new courses now use electric carts—a clear manifestation of how our golf owners value the air that we breathe.

Our golf courses also help a lot in the eradication of noise pollution as electric golf carts are practically noiseless; they simply hum.

I wonder when our giant car companies like Honda, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Ford, GM, Chrysler, Hyundai, Kia and even Isuzu start manufacturing electric golf carts?

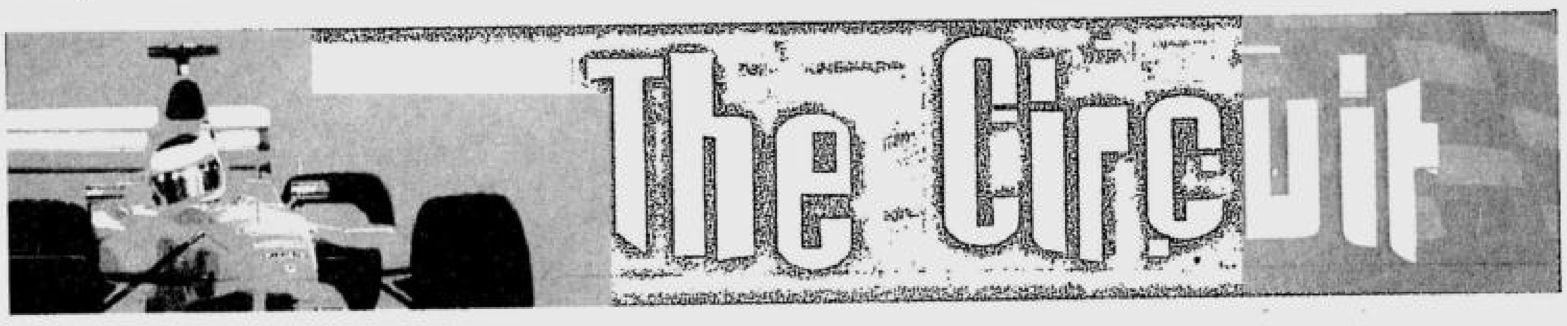
Electric cars we already have in some chosen countries, although they have yet to be introduced in the Philippines.

But electric golf carts getting mass-produced so that every golf course in the country can start disposing of the now-obsolete carts fed by gasoline?

Ah, I long to see that day.

* * *

QUOTE ME. When cars weren't around yet, the wonder vehicle was the bicycle.



ONE-TWO VICTORY FOR FERRARI AT SILVERSTONE

Michael Schumacher led his team-mate Rubens Barrichello home for a one-two finish last weekend in one of the most exciting races of the season. Throughout the 60 laps of Silverstone, teams and drivers had to contend with all manner of conditions as rain fell intermittently for nearly one and a half hours.

The race began in dry conditions, but even on the grid, eyes were on the ever-darkening sky. Smatterings of rain had kept the teams' attention throughout the day, but the first drama came before the lights had even gone out. As the cars pulled away for their formation lap, Rubens Barrichello's F2002 failed to get away as the rest of the field filed past him. His engineers managed to restart him, and he took his place at the back of the grid. This setback however would prove to be the catalyst for one of the best drives of his life.

Juan Pablo Montoya led the grid away and through Copse corner, followed by Michael Schumacher, now promoted to second place, following Rubens' demotion. However, at the back of the grid, Ferrari's Brazilian driver was demolishing the opposition. In the first lap he passed seven cars and was up to tenth position by lap three.

At the head of the field, Michael was challenging Juan Pablo Montoya as the pair lapped the track. All was to change however when the heavens began to open. Most of the 20 remaining cars sensed the incoming rain and pitted immediately as the pit lane sprung into life. Michael and Rubens, both took sets of intermediate tires and a top up of Shell fuel. Other drivers were more cautious however, taking full wet tires in an effort to displace the ever increasing amounts of water. The right choice soon became clear, cars with the heavily grooved wet tires began to suffer as the rubber underneath them began to overheat.

Michael Schumacher however had found his groove, and pressured Juan Pablo Montoya for the lead. When the Columbian ran wide on the entry to the Abby Curve, Michael pounced and entered the complex leading the race to the delight of the thousands of fans. Rubens Barrichello also made the most of his tires and on lap nineteen passed Montoya at Copse Corner to take second position. His recovery from last place to second in 19 laps was nothing short of incredible.

Ten laps later, the Ferrari cars would pit again for slicks as the sun came out again. Montoya re-established himself in second spot when Kimi Raikkonen's engine let go on lap 46, but was soon under pressure from Rubens Barrichello who had dropped to third with all the pit stops. Rubens, having driven from the back of the grid was not about to let a second place go lightly and raced to pull alongside Montoya, out-braked the Williams and grabbed second place. Both Ferraris then held on to first and second place positions until the end. Michael Schumacher said, "The car behaved very well in the track conditions that were changing rapidly... The key point was deciding which type of tire to use. I had some doubts, but I have to thank Ross who made the right choice for me." In these conditions, Shell's fuel was flexible enough to compliment the Ferrari team's strategy. As Schumi said " Ferrari and Shell are now sharing a partnership like no other and it is clear that I can see the results when I drive the car."

For Shell, Ferrari's fuel and lubricants supplier, the race was a ringing testimony. Speaking after the race, David Barnes, Shell's Motorsport Business Manager said "the race was a real test for Shell Helix in the car. When the race is so changeable, the cars are put through totally different conditions. A pleasing aspect of the race is how well the cars coped with the changing temperatures. Regardless of how hard Rubens and Michael needed to push their cars, Shell Helix motor oil kept the cars safe." (W.I.N.)

2002 FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

(After 10 Grand Prix Races)

DRIVER STANDINGS	
M. SCHUMACHER	86
BARRICHELLO	32
MONTOYA	31
R. SCHUMACHER	30
COULTHARD	26
RAIKKONEN	11

TEAM STANDINGS	
FERRARI	118
WILLIAMS	61
McLAREN	37
RENAULT	14
SAUBER	10
JORDAN	6

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Insurance security group opens authentication facility in NCR

THE INSURANCE Security Association of the Philippines (Isap) recently opened its authentication facility initially in the National Capital Region, said Victoria Roman Flores, Isap president.

LTO offices have the test run in four designated areas—the Diliman and the Pilot District Office, both in Quezon City; and the Pasig and Makati LTO offices. D-Tech Management Inc. is the approved service provider to verify the authenticated CTPL (compulsory third party liability) policies (or COCs) before a vehicle is registered.

Motor vehicles with CTPL policies are required by law to be registered to ensure that third parties in vehicular accidents would be duly indemnified should they suffer or die. However, as of last year, only less than one million insurance policies were reported while about 3.9 million were registered.

"Some CTPL policies that were accepted by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) were either fake or duplicate copies of other policies. Or, some companies did not report all their policy issuances to the Insurance Commission," Flores said.

As a result, some 2.9 million clients, who may have an accident, would not be able to make a claim on their policies. Meanwhile, the government lost some P835 million in revenue last year because of this. The nonlife insurance industry also lost slightly less than P4-billion worth of premiums last year.

Opening . . .

From p. D3

When Binay tried to open Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village to public traffic, he was stopped by the court on the grounds that the MMDA charter does not give the MMDA chair the authority to open the gates of private subdivisions. Homeowners can also cite in their favor two laws, Presidential Decrees 957 and 1216, empowering subdivision and condominium homeowners to regulate traffic in their communities in order to protect their right to privacy.

To avert litigation, the MMDA, local government officials and homeowner association leaders can work out a compromise whereby only private subdivision roads that directly link major public thoroughfares will be opened to public traffic during rush hours on weekdays, provided that cargo trucks, container vans, passenger buses and tricycles will not be allowed; and provided further that City Hall will pay for additional village security measures and the repair and maintenance of the private roads.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: As a matter of fact, I do own the road!

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

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GLS M/T	680,000	100,000	27,164	19,336	340,000	*28,333	19,467	11,060	7,787
GLS A/T	710,000	100,000	28,362	20,189	355,000	30,555	21,021	11,935	8,406
MX	790,000	118,000	31,558	22,464	395,000	*32,917	22,299	12,673	8,921

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